

Gov't, Moro rebels sign truce agreement

STORY
ON PAGE A2

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Sen. Noli gets 'text' from heaven

BY R. NAZARENO
EVEN God is into texting these days—or so Sen. Noli de Castro believes. De Castro said he received a mysterious text message on his SEN. NOLI/ A7

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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LONER, meditative, a workhorse on a motorcycle.
FILE PHOTO PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

Ex-MILF rebs eyed in priest's kidnap

AFP: Hostage may be turned over to Abu Sayyaf

Fr. Beppe 'very quiet but wacky when he's happy'



INFO-TECH comes to a remote, no-tech village in northern Afghanistan. And what an awesome sight it is for Afghans hovering over journalists who have streamed into their country since Sept. 11 as they send their dispatches by satellite phone. GETTY IMAGES

BY HERNAN DE LA CRUZ, EDWIN O. FERNANDEZ AND JULIE ALIPALA-INOT
PDI Mindanao Bureau

DIMATALING, Zamboanga del Sur—The group that abducted Italian missionary Giuseppe "Beppe" Pierantoni here on Wednesday had also wanted to seize a Polish priest, a military official yesterday said.

But the kidnap group missed Fr. Janusz Burzawa, parish priest of Dimataling, by just a few minutes, according to Col. Jet Belarmino, commanding officer of the Army's 51st Infantry Battalion.

Burzawa on Wednesday went to Pagadian City and arrived here a few minutes after Pierantoni was abducted.

Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu, Armed Forces Southern Command chief, said renegade members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) were behind the abduction of Pierantoni, a 44-year-old member of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and assistant parish priest of Dimataling.

Cimatu said the kidnapers belonged to the Pentagon group, which had earlier abducted Chinese engineers in Central Mindanao.

He said the abduction of Pierantoni could have been pulled off by the Pentagon group to ease the pressure on the Abu Sayyaf.

"The Abu Sayyaf is feeling the pressure of (ongoing military operations), so it could have asked this group to conduct a diversionary move," Cimatu said.

Abu Hamsa, Pentagon spokesperson, had earlier claimed that his group had ties to the Abu Sayyaf bandit group.

Eid Kabalu, MILF spokesperson, denied that members of the rebel group were behind the Italian priest's abduction.

EX-MILF/ A20

BY BLANCHE S. RIVERA AND HERNAN P. DELA CRUZ
PDI Mindanao Bureau

"A VERY quiet and gentle man who is deeply committed to his ministry."

This was how superiors and people close to Fr. Giuseppe Pierantoni described the 44-year-old Italian priest who was abducted by heavily armed men on Wednesday in the seaside town of Dimataling in Zamboanga del Sur.

Father Beppe, as he is called by his parishioners, "has never harmed anyone," Fr. Jerry Sheehy, his close friend and superior in the Sacre Cour de Jesu (SCJ or Sacred Heart of Jesus), said in a statement yesterday.

"We cannot understand why you (Pierantoni's abductors) have done this to him," Sheehy said. "You are bringing shame on the Filipinos, both Muslims and Christians, who are known for their kindness and hospitality toward foreigners."

Zamboanga del Sur Bishop Zacarias Jimenez
FR. BEPPE/ A20

US Embassy says 22 US 'advisers' not yet in Mindanao

BY JOSELLE BADILLA AND JULIE ALIPALA-INOT
PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAVAO CITY—There will be an initial batch of 22 US military advisers.

But they are not yet in town, contrary to the report of Agence France Presse (AFP).

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva said the US advisers were not expected until next week.

The French news agency reported on Wednesday that "US anti-terrorism experts" had arrived in Mindanao to help train the military in dealing with the Abu Sayyaf bandits.

It quoted US Embassy Charge d'Affaires Robert Fitts as saying that some advisers arrived earlier and "they are in the Southern Command" in Zamboanga City.

Fitts was also quoted by the agency as saying that more "consultants would arrive before the end of the month but that they would not be armed and will not join combat operations."

US EMBASSY/ A4

'Fight between justice and evil'

SHANGHAI—The foreign ministers of nations belonging to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation agreed Thursday to combat terrorism in a "fight between justice and evil," but acknowledged "sensitivities" on how to publicly talk about the military aspect of the battle.

Chinese Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan used strong words—some recalling US President George W. Bush's attack on terrorism—in outlining the

points that the Apec ministers had agreed on.

"Anti-terrorism is a fight between justice and evil, civilization and savagery," Tang told reporters. "It's not a confrontation between different nations, different cultures or different religions. We recommend dialogue between civilizations, coexistence and cooperation."

The ministers of the 21-member Apec wrapped up their 13th

annual meeting that sets the stage for a summit of leaders, including Bush, scheduled this weekend.

The leaders are expected to issue a statement on terrorism when they conclude their summit on Sunday. The US government is pushing a draft statement that describes the Sept. 11 attacks in New York and Washington as "murderous deeds" but carefully avoids any mention of prime terrorist sus-

FIGHT/ A20

US anthrax cases hit 44; false alarms stoke panic

WASHINGTON—Global panic over anthrax escalated yesterday after the discovery of new cases in the United States and a host of new scares elsewhere.

The number of people in the United States found to have been exposed to anthrax rose to 44 after 31 US Senate employees tested positive for exposure to the deadly bacteria on Wednesday. The search for the bacteria's source led House of Representatives leaders to shut down until Tuesday.

No case has been detected outside the United States, but hoaxes and false alarms kept populations on edge around the world as government scientists raced to check suspicious mail and possible cases.

And as evidence mounted that pranksters and people with an ax to grind had deliberately triggered scares, governments vowed to crack down hard.

"These are malicious and criminal acts, and anyone sending hoax US/ A20



Bush signals switch to ground assault

KABUL, Afghanistan—US jets on Thursday targeted the heart of Afghanistan's capital, attacking a Taliban tank unit and other military installations in the central district of the city.

In California, US President George W. Bush told a flag-waving crowd that the bombing, now on its 12th day, was "paving the way for friendly troops on the ground."

It was not clear whether Bush was referring to the deployment of ground troops by the US-led coalition that British Prime Minister Tony Blair spoke of Wednesday or to a long-awaited offensive by anti-Taliban forces in northern Afghanistan.

Opposition forces were reported to be pressing their first major offensive since the US-led air strikes

began, fighting hard for a strategic Taliban-held city in northern Afghanistan.

American pilots opened Thursday's air strikes before dawn in Kabul, drawing heavy anti-aircraft fire as they pounded areas around the presidential palace and beyond.

Taliban information ministry officials said the strikes blasted the city's Shash Tarak district, near the

long-abandoned US Embassy and home to a Taliban tank unit. The defense ministry office and a Taliban garrison are located in the area.

Flames from the direction of the airport lit up the night sky. On Wednesday, US pilots struck a fuel depot near the airport, sending inky black smoke billowing over Kabul.

To Afghanistan's south, US strikes pounded targets in the cen-

ter of the city of Kandahar, headquarters of the Taliban militia. Residents said by telephone Wednesday that Taliban fighters in the city were handing out weapons to civilians.

The southern city of Kandahar was also reported under fresh US attacks on Thursday, with the airport and Taliban militia sites com-

BUSH/ A20

Arroyo appeals to 'missing link' GMA clears staff

BY CYNTHIA D. BALANA AND CARLITO PABLO

AS THE SENATE starts its investigation today into the alleged misuse of P250 million in sweepstakes funds by Mr. Mike Arroyo, the P40-million telecommunications franchise bribe also allegedly involving the President's husband, is still far from settled.

Because the "missing link" is still missing. Appearing before the Senate committee on transportation and communications yesterday, Mr. Arroyo appealed to Malou Nunez to talk about what she knows about the alleged bribery under oath.

Nunez, a consultant at the Department of Transportation and Communications, had been subpoenaed at her last known addresses but was still nowhere to be found.

ARROYO/ A7



THE "LINK," Malou Nunez: When will she show up? Where is she? Why is she in hiding?



ARROYO: Nunez must talk at Senate hearing. This is a demolition job.

Issues versus Camacho 'trivial'

BY ELENA R. TORRIJOS AND GIL CABACUNGAN JR.

TWO BUSINESS groups yesterday assailed the Commission on Appointments for raising trivial issues against Finance Secretary Isidro Camacho that may derail his confirmation.

The Makati Business Club (MBC) and the Bankers Association of the Philippines (BAP) said it would not speak well of Congress should the CA reject Camacho 2 BUSINESS/ A4



EXPO SCAM SC stops Laurel prosecution

BY MICHAEL LIM UBAC

THE SUPREME Court's First Division has temporarily barred Ombudsman Aniano Desierto from prosecuting former Vice President Salvador "Doy" Laurel before the Sandiganbayan in connection with the 1998 Centennial Expo scam in Pampanga.

In a one-page order, the Supreme Court issued a temporary restraining order to prevent Desierto and government prosecutors from initiating criminal charges against Laurel, who is the highest government official to be indicted in connection with the billion-peso scam.

The SC said the TRO shall be effective "as of this date and continuing until further orders."

The TRO was issued on Sept. 24, but copies of the decision were distributed to reporters only yesterday.

First Division Clerk of Court Virginia Ancheta-Soriano said the First Division chaired by Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. granted Laurel's petition for a TRO after the latter posted a P10,000-cash bond with the SC's cash collection and disbursement division.

The SC, upon its discretion, may ask petitioners to pay a cash bond in cases seeking an injunctive relief. Laurel sought the TRO when he filed a petition for certiorari with the SC to block the Ombudsman investigation.

In seeking to stop Desierto from prosecuting him, Laurel said he was no longer a public official and the Ombudsman's Office thus has no jurisdiction to investigate and subsequently indict him with the anti-graft court.

But Desierto says Laurel, as chair of the Philippine National Centennial Commission and the Philippine Centennial Exposition '98 Corp., is a public official since Exporcorp is a public office.

On Dec. 14, 2000, Desierto charged Laurel with graft before the Sandiganbayan for increasing the budget of the Freedom Ring of the Centennial Expo in Pampanga from P248 million to P1.2 billion.

Laurel also allegedly gave unwarranted advantage to a private party when he awarded the Freedom Ring project to Asia Construction Development Authority (AK) "without the benefit of a competitive public bidding."

However, Desierto deferred the actual filing of the complaint in deference to the high court after Laurel filed his petition.

Desierto said in a 17-page resolution that Laurel was liable for graft for allegedly awarding the contract to AK without the benefit of a technical evaluation.

According to Desierto, Laurel, in a series of decisions from Nov. 5 to Dec. 6, 1996, also made irregular changes in the original plan and increased the budget of the Freedom Ring, from P248 million to P1.2 billion.

"Records showed that the change involved the expansion of the original scope of the fabric roof from an area of 2.8 hectares to cover the entire Freedom Ring," Desierto added.

Former President Fidel Ramos was also implicated in the scam for allegedly realigning government funds to finance over P9 billion in projects to commemorate the country's Centennial celebrations.

Gov't, Moro rebs sign truce manual

KUALA LUMPUR—The Philippine government said on Thursday it had signed a peace pact with separatist Muslim rebels following talks in Kuala Lumpur, despite violations of an earlier ceasefire.

Representatives of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the Philippine government have been holding talks here since Monday to reinforce a truce they signed there in August.

"We have signed the agreement this morning and we will move forward from this by setting up a monitoring body to implement the cessation of hostilities," the government's chief negotiator, Jesus Dureza, told reporters.

The rebels had fought for nearly 30 years for a separate Islamic state in Mindanao before settling for lesser gains in talks brokered first by Libya and later Malaysia. The Philippines is predominantly Catholic but has many Muslims in its southern islands.

The Philippine military is fighting another group, Abu Sayyaf, which it regards as being little more than a band of brigands who kidnap foreigners and Filipinos for ransom.

Washington has named the Abu Sayyaf as one of the groups linked to Saudi-born militant Osama bin Laden, its chief suspect in the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States.

Dureza praised the MILF for rejecting calls from Afghanistan's Taliban rulers and Muslim groups in some other countries for a jihad, or holy war, in response to the US-led attacks in Afghanistan.

"The Philippine government takes positive note of the MILF position in regard to the current issue spawned by the events in United States and in Afghanistan," he said.

"By publicly rejecting the current call for jihad, the leadership of the MILF greatly helped in further strengthening the social cohesion amongst diverse ethnic groups in Mindanao," he said.

MILF chief negotiator Murad Ebrahim said there were still several



DUREZA

issues on the agenda for discussion on Thursday.

"The panel today will begin with discussion on development and economic rehabilitation of the area, and the return of ancestral lands to the Muslims," the rebel leader said.

If those issues were settled a second agreement on the development of Mindanao is likely to be signed in coming days.

Murad said previously the ceasefire has been broken at least 12 times. Each side blames the other for the violations.

Dureza said both parties agreed on a manual containing detailed instructions of how to conduct and implement the cease-

fire—the main objective of negotiations.

"So far we've accomplished what we've wanted to do. The manual is the main objective we've had from the start," he said.

Dureza arrived in Malaysia Wednesday night for the third round of talks. "The manual is very important, because if there are lapses in the ceasefire, we cannot move forward with peace talks," he told AFP.

"It's a big step forward for negotiations, because since August there have been incidents on the ground that need a closer look by the ceasefire committee."

In August, Manila signed a ceasefire with the MILF rebel group, but fighting has repeatedly broken out in Mindanao island with each side blaming the other for the violence.

Murad, who is also MILF military affairs vice chair, said he was pleased with the signing of the manual accord but warned that future talks would be futile if Manila "continued to ignore the agreement."

"If they continue to violate the ceasefire, there is no use going forward with the peace process. But with the signing of the manual, we are hoping this would reinforce the ceasefire implementation," he said.

Murad said a fresh round of talks later in the day would focus on rehabilitation and economic development of the poverty-stricken Mindanao province. *Reuters/AFP*

2 Abu bandits captured

THE MILITARY yesterday announced the arrest of two Abu Sayyaf bandits, including one who fired the rocket-propelled grenade that killed a young Army lieutenant in the June 2 firefight in Lamitan, Basilan.

The two were identified as Mohammad Abdullah and Abdulasam Andan, each of whom carried a P1-million reward for their capture.

Abdullah was arrested around 3 p.m. on Oct. 16 in an operation in Lamitan, Basilan, while Andan was picked up the next day at

the provincial market in Zamboanga City. Abdullah was identified as the one who fired the B40 rocket-propelled grenade at the Simba armored personnel carrier of 2nd Lt. Gene Kenneth Bulong of the Army's Light Armored Company.

On the other hand, Andan was described as a trusted lieutenant of Mujib Sulsukan, the Sulu-based commander responsible for the abduction of 21 persons, most of them foreigners, in Sipadan on April last year.

Imee says she's in the dark on settlement talks

BY CHRISTINE O. AVENDAÑO

"I'm totally ignorant... I don't know anything about it... I'm not being coy," insisted Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos yesterday, claiming she was not aware of any initiative by her family to settle the Marcos ill-gotten wealth issue with the government.

Marcos was responding to reporters' queries on the disclosure the other day by Haydee Yorac, chair of the Presidential Commission on Good Government, that an emissary of the Marcoses had sent negotiation feelers in behalf of the family.

Yorac said she spoke to the Marcos representative, whom she did not identify, more than two months ago but has yet to get a response.

She said she gave the emissary the four conditions set by the PCGG for any settlement and these were: full disclosure of the Marcos assets abroad; placing the assets under government control; a universal agreement binding all Marcos heirs to the agreement, and the issuance of an apology to the Filipino people.

"That's news to me," Rep. Marcos said when informed about Yorac's statements, adding, however, that she remained firm that a "workable solution to this problem" should be found.

President Macapagal-Arroyo confirmed yesterday she had received feelers from the Marcoses early in her administration about a possible agreement on the alleged ill-gotten wealth of the family. *With Carlito Pablo*

Gloria out to rid NFA of graft

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo said yesterday that she placed the National Food Authority under her office to rid the agency of graft and corruption. She said she wanted the NFA to be one of the

"showcases" to prove that her administration is fighting graft and corruption.

The President on Monday issued Executive Order 41 placing the NFA and the Philippine Coconut Authority under the Office of the President. The two agencies were attached to the Department of Agriculture for the last 14 years.

To justify the transfer, she said the two agencies were originally under the Office of the President when they were created during the Marcos administration.

But she added another reason for taking in the NFA. "It's really very difficult to be so comprehensive and complete in the fight against graft and corruption immediately because it's like a festering wound that you have to clean every day and it takes time."

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BY D. PAZZIBUGAN

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo said yesterday she will recall the commutation of the death sentences on six convicted kidnappers granted by her predecessor, ousted President Joseph Estrada.

Ms Macapagal said she was resolved to re-impose the death penalty on kidnappers as she had promised Chinese-Filipino businessmen last Monday.

At the start of her term, Ms Macapagal had assured the Catholic Church and civil society leaders she would not carry out the death penalty, unlike her predecessor.

Her turnaround came in response to the Chinese-Filipino community's clamor for an end to kidnappings for ransom of their members.

"I will have the papers of the six pulled and reviewed by Justice Secretary Hernando Perez to see how we could recall their commutations," she said in Filipino during her weekly news conference.

Ms Macapagal was referring to the six convicted kidnappers whose executions were stayed by Estrada shortly before the start of his Senate impeachment trial last year.

Observers said Estrada was just trying to win back the Catholic Church, one of his main critics, on the eve of his impeachment and after he had allowed seven death row convicts to be given lethal injections.

Some legal observers doubted Ms Macapagal could recall an executive clemency, but the DOJ reportedly could not find any commutation orders signed by Estrada for the six convicts.

The six were identified as Roberto Gungon, Benedicto Ramos, Zoilo Borromeo, Rommel Dayang, Melvin Espiritu and Nicson Catli.

Ms Macapagal acknowledged the Church's opposition to her turnaround.

She said she balanced their opposition with the clamor by anti-crime groups for the imposition of the death penalty.

She said she decided to impose the death penalty on kidnappers because the problem has become widespread and has affected the country's business climate.

A ranking justice official, however, said yesterday the move to re-impose the death sentence on the six kidnappers could lead to legal complications.

The official, who handles criminal cases being reviewed by the Supreme Court, said President Macapagal could not just exercise her executive clemency powers over the six kidnapping cases, which had already been reviewed by the high tribunal.

"A legal question arises (with the recall of the commutations). You cannot take back a privilege given to a prisoner without a valid reason," said the justice official, who asked not to be named.

The official said the move to recall the commutation orders on death

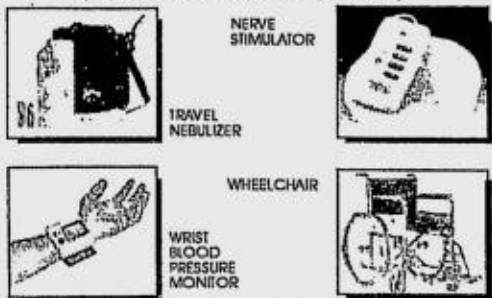
convicts has no precedent, and thus the President should exercise caution in dealing with the issue.

Perez declined to comment on the matter, saying his office would first study the legality of Malacañang's move to recall the commutation orders.

"I'm sure the matter will be referred to the DOJ for opinion. We will have to study the legality of the President's decision," Perez said. With Michael Lim Ubac

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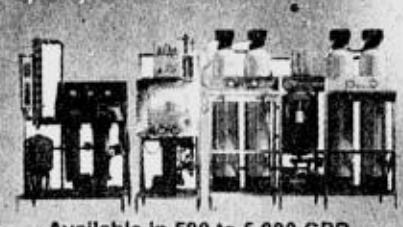
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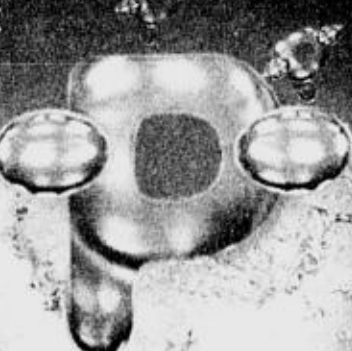


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Gloria to bat for 'economic security' in Apec meet

BY CARLITO PABLO

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday said she would propose the expansion of the scope of the 21-nation Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation to cover

"economic security," which would include measures to fight terrorism.

She is scheduled to depart this morning for Shanghai, site of the 9th Apec Summit at which the leaders of member-nations are expected to issue a state-

ment against international terrorism on top of their main agenda, the promotion of free trade.

"My main speaking part will be at the lunch meeting on terrorism," the President said at her weekly press con-

ference. "And so I will be sharing my thoughts on expanding the scope of Apec to cover not only trade liberalization and facilitation, investment liberalization and facilitation, and economic and technical cooperation but

also economic security."

She also said she would share with her fellow leaders what "we have done with regard to economic security, like the anti-money laundering law."

She said she would likewise cite "the need for greater interfaith or, in our case, Christian-Muslim dialogue," as well as "our initiative to join forces with Malaysia and Indonesia in order to combat terrorism within our own borders."

What the President meant by economic security, according to her spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao, was "more of how different economies could help each other to insulate them from the effects of international terrorism."

"In this period of turmoil, Apec becomes more relevant in the sense that there is a need to focus on how members can help each other's economies," he said.

Tiglao said the anti-money laundering law, which the President signed on Sept. 29, was "also part" of economic security because it would help combat international terrorism by choking off the

financial pipelines of terrorist groups.

The law empowers the government to, among other things, examine certain bank accounts upon the request of foreign governments.

The President said in a previous interview that while the Apec summit on Oct. 20-21 would concentrate on its original goal of promoting trade and investments, last month's terrorist attacks in the United States had added a new dimension to the meeting.

"And to be relevant, we must now address the issue of economic security resulting from the global terrorist threat," she said in that interview.

Full plate

The President said that because of the hectic schedule at the summit, she would not have a one-on-one meeting with her US counterpart George W. Bush.

"We will do that in Washington, not at Apec," she said, referring to her forthcoming US visit wherein she would meet with Bush at the White House on Nov. 20.

US Embassy . . .

(From page A1)

"The US Embassy made no such announcement," Fitts said in a press statement sent to the INQUIRER.

"They haven't been to GHQ (AFP general headquarters in Aguinaldo). They might still be in the embassy," Villanueva told the INQUIRER by phone.

Villanueva verified the report with Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu, the Southern Command chief, yesterday morning, and he was told the Americans were not there.

"Eh baka nawala sila (The US experts might have gotten lost)," Villanueva said.

The American advisers will consist of "a small group of officers from the US Pacific Command who will discuss additional training with the Philippine military to back its efforts against terrorism," Fitts explained in his statement.

"The team is coming as part of an ongoing program of cooperation between the countries to improve the anti-terrorism capabilities of the Armed Forces," he added.

Fitts said the US officers were coming at the invitation of the Philippine government.

Villanueva said there was no unusual preparation for the arrival of the US anti-terrorism experts.

"There is no preparation. We are just doing our thing and maybe they would only like to see how we are operating," he said.

Cimatu said the military operations against the Abu Sayyaf continued to yield good results.

He said two more Abu Sayyaf leaders were captured in Lamitan town one Oct. 16.

Cimatu said one of those arrested was responsible for the siege on Lamitan on June 2.

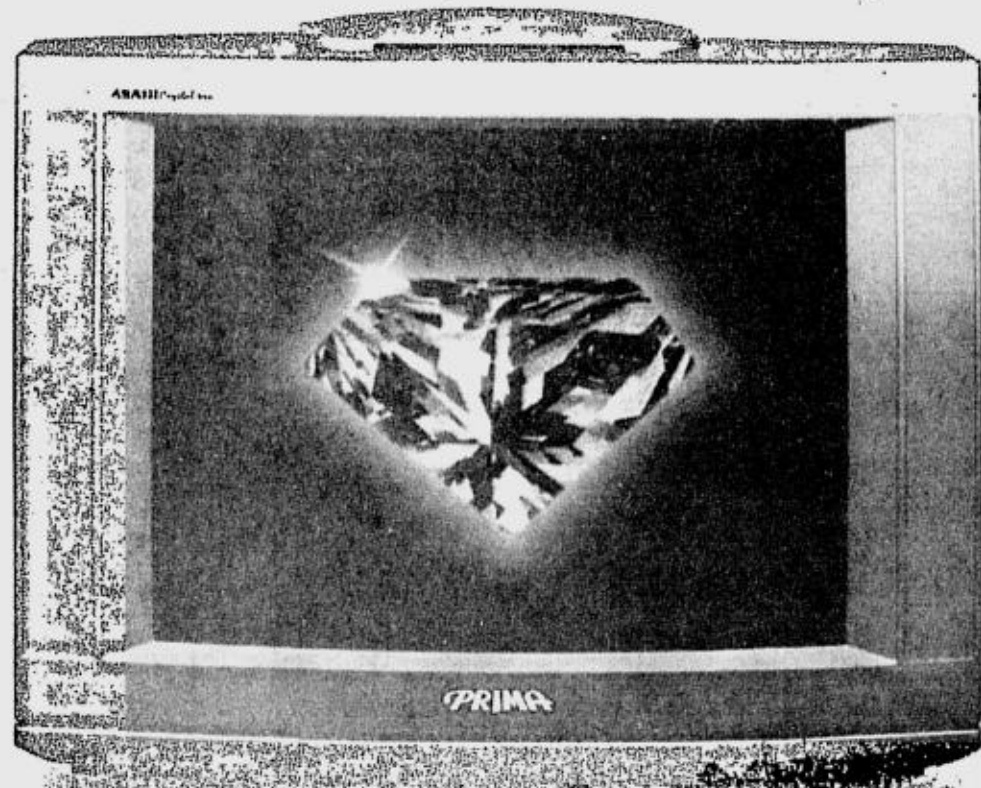
He identified one of those captured as Mohammad Abdulla who admitted that he was responsible for the death of 2Lt. Gene Kenneth Bulong.

Bulong, of PMA Class 2000, was killed when a projectile of a 90 recoilless rifle hit the Armored Personnel Carrier he was commanding.

The other arrested Abu Sayyaf member was Abudalam Andang, who is also involved in the Lamitan attack.

Andang's relationship with Galib Andang alias Commander Robot is still being established. With a report from Martin Marfil

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2 business . . .

(From page A1)

on the basis of "petty issues" like the poster displayed at Camacho's home at the height of the impeachment trial of then President Joseph Estrada.

The poster read "Tessie, *pakpok* (prostitute)," referring to opposition Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta, who danced after the Senate decided against opening an envelope that contained documents showing that Estrada had kept billions of pesos in a secret bank account.

The Senate decision led to People Power II that ousted Estrada.

"The alleged poster was about a senator who accepted 'balato (tip)' from an impeachable president," MBC executive director Guillermo Luz said.

Luz was referring to the P1 million in tip that Estrada gave to Oreta during a game of mahjong on BRP Ang Pangulo.

Luz also took the CA to task for discussing a letter of Camacho's mother to opposition Sen. Blas Ople.

"The letter was written by a voter who was only expressing her opinion. What's wrong with that?" Luz said.

In the letter, the finance secretary's mother, Leonarda, chided Ople for saying that her son had "made reckless and irresponsible statements about the power bill."

Mrs. Camacho warned Ople to "be careful next time you open your mouth. You might eat your words later."

"It's so trivial," BAP executive director Leonilo Coronel said of the issues raised against Camacho, a former energy secretary.

"We can't look for any other ideal person who is qualified and willing to make the sacrifice and join government," Coronel said. "I think the guy is doing extremely well, he's trying his best."

Camacho was a long-time banker and head of Deutsche Bank in the Philippines before he decided to take a 98-percent pay cut and join the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"It's a terrible shame that we are having second thoughts about a thorough and through professional like Camacho," said Senen Matoto, BPI Capital Corp. president and former Investment Houses Association of the Philippines (Ihap) president.

Matoto said that Ihap earlier this year proposed certain structures for the privatization of the government's 10-percent stake in the Manila Electric Co. but the finance secretary rejected the proposal.

"The proposal covered for certain downside risks for Ihap but he was quick to point out that it might not be equitable to the government," Matoto recounted.

"It's a great tribute to GMA (Ms Macapagal) that she has someone like him," Matoto added.

Track record

Luz said the appointment of individuals to Cabinet positions should be done solely on the basis of the candidate's track record and not on irrelevant issues or strong political connections.

"The country needs somebody like Camacho to head the Department of Finance especially at this time that the global financial market is in turmoil. He is well respected in the international financial community and that is a stabilizing factor for the Philippines," Luz said.

Coronel expressed doubt that the government would be able to get someone of Camacho's caliber again after the CA rejected other qualified candidates in the past administrations.

He cited former Finance Secretary Ramon del Rosario Jr. whom the CA refused to confirm during the time of then President Fidel Ramos.

Ms Macapagal remains confident that Camacho and Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes would pass the scrutiny of pro-Estrada members of the CA.

The President said the grilling that Camacho received from Ople and Oreta was not as bad as it appeared in the news.

"I talked to Secretary Camacho and the exchange didn't seem as bad as I read it (in the newspapers)," Ms Macapagal said.

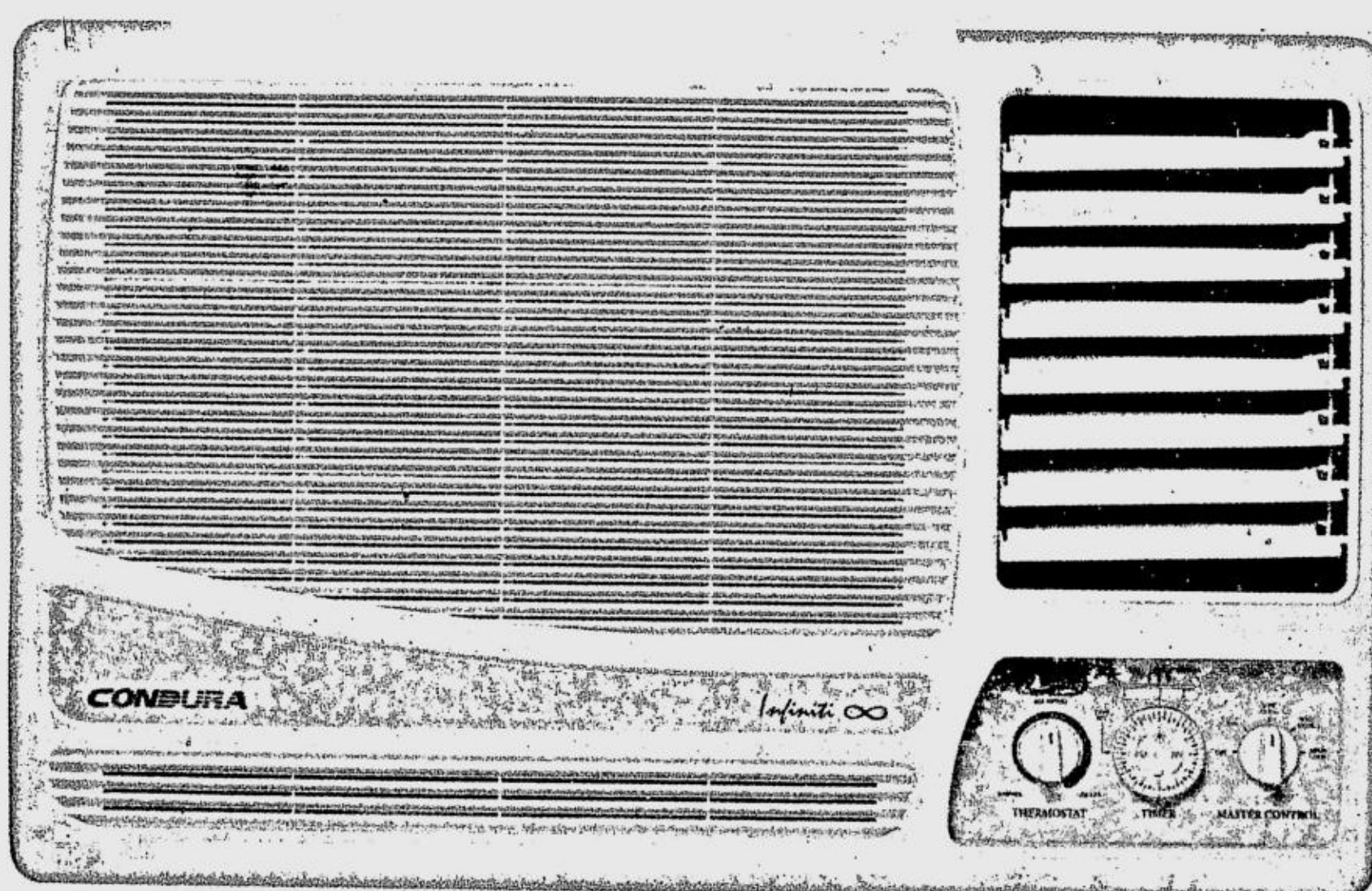
She said Reyes also did not seem fazed by his grilling in the hands of Rep. Gerry Espina. The congressman questioned Reyes' integrity because he defected to the opposition as Estrada's military chief at the height of the Edsa II revolt.

Ms Macapagal said Reyes was able to watch the UAAP basketball finals between La Salle and Ateneo after the CA hearing "so I guess it's not that bad."

She said the CA grilling was "all part of the democratic process." With a report from Dona Pazibugan

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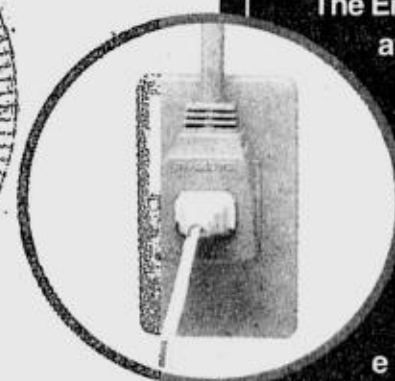
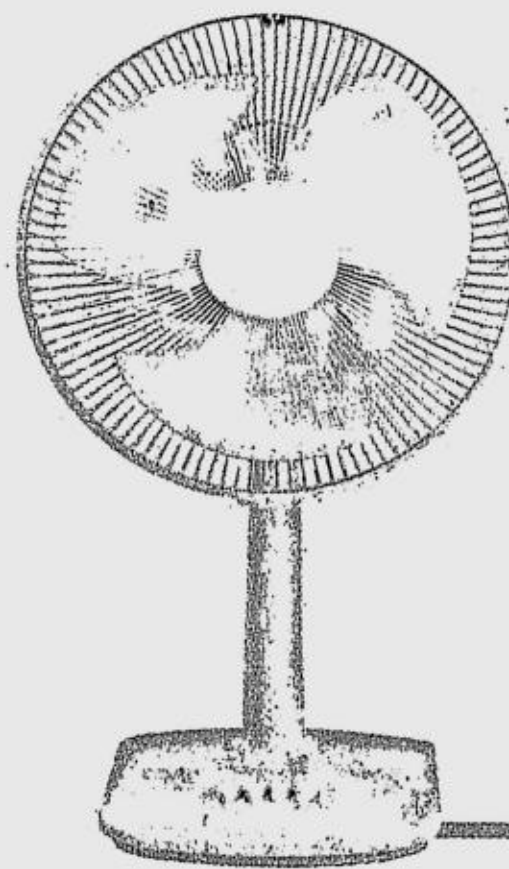


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Ping bares plot to link him to seized drugs

BY CYNTHIA D. BALANA
AND CATHY C. YAMSUAN

SEN. Panfilo Lacson bared yesterday an alleged plot by military and police officials to link him to the 498-kilo drug bust in Quezon province last week, the biggest drug haul in the country to date.

Lacson quoted "reliable information" received by his office that Panukulan town Mayor Ronnie Mitra, who was caught with the contraband, was being forced to implicate him in the drug case.

"I have good information they are trying very hard to drag my name into the case, to the extent of promising the mayor he will get off the hook if he gives damning testimony against me," Lacson said.

Asked who might be behind the plot, Lacson said they were the same people who have always wanted to put him down, but he refused to name names.

Mitra, with three others, was arrested by a joint PNP Narcotics Group and National Bureau of Investigation team while allegedly transporting the methamphetamine hydrochloride (shabu) worth P1 billion in his town's ambulance in Real, Quezon, last Saturday. Lacson also chided the law enforcement officials involved for claiming credit for the drug bust.

Outright lie

"You can include that in the list of outright lies because I know that the intelligence lead came from the United States Drug Enforcement Agency and was only followed up by the Narcgroup," the senator said.

According to Lacson, he was privy to the anti-drug operation since the coordinating meeting among the US DEA, Narcgroup, NBI and the Philippine Navy was conducted in his Senate office last Friday.

Among those present at the briefing were US DEA attaches Jeffrey Wendling and Daniel Cruz, and PNP Narcgroup director Chief Supt. Reynor Gonzales, he said.

Lacson did not explain, however, why the meeting was held in his office when he was no longer involved in law enforcement.

Prudence

"Senator Lacson should be more prudent in his statements about the PNP hierarchy, considering he was a former PNP chief," said Director

Thompson Lantion, chief of police community relations, in a telephone interview.

"We will deny (what Lacson said). There is no such pressure on Mitra," Lantion added.

Narcgroup officer-in-charge Supt. Evna Ruiz confirmed that investigators are trying to get Mitra to name his accomplices, "but we are not forcing him to name Senator Lacson."

"We do not do that. It's up to Mayor Mitra whom he will name," Ruiz told the INQUIRER in another phone interview.

In Tuguegarao City, the police director of the Cagayan Valley said it was "highly possible" the 498 kilos of shabu intercepted in Quezon were contained in seven steel drums dropped by an airplane into the sea off Dinapigue, Isabela, in July.

Airdropped drums

Chief Supt. Dominador Resos Jr., regional police director, said a combined team of police, Army and Navy personnel searched for the drums after the airdrop was reported by Dinapigue residents, but failed to find anything.

Resos, in a report to PNP Director General Leandro Mendoza, said the drums were thrown from a "camouflage-colored" plane that had a "big red star mark" on its side.

The steel containers, Resos said, were dropped off Barangay Digmased, a village facing the Pacific Ocean in Dinapigue town. The drums were reportedly picked up by at least 20 armed men in two boats and were taken either to Aurora or Quezon province.

In an updated report two weeks before the shabu was seized in Quezon, Resos said a former official of Dinapigue was being investigated following reports he and his bodyguards were seen in the vicinity of the drop site a few hours before the drums were dropped.

Arrested with Mitra were Javier Morilla, Roel Dequilla and Chinese national Willie Yao. With Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

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Firms told: Go easy on layoffs

BY B. RIVERA

LABOR Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas yesterday appealed to employers to go slow on retrenchments amid warnings of massive layoffs to cushion the impact of the terrorist attacks on the United States on the local economy.

Sto. Tomas made the appeal even as she assured that the Department of Labor and Employment, and other government agencies would "work out emergency measures that would mitigate the ill effects of the economic slowdown due to the measures of the United States against terrorism."

She did not specify the government's plan of action even as the Regional Tripartite Wage and Productivity Board (RTWPB) had so far failed to come up with a decision on the workers' petition for wage increase.

Representatives from the government and labor sector have confirmed that a P30 wage hike was "most likely" to be approved for Metro Manila workers although the RTWPB has yet to resolve other key matters.

Labor Undersecretary Manuel Imson had earlier said some employers, mostly from the small and micro enterprises, were still seeking exemption from giving a wage hike, insisting they could not afford it at this time because of the economic slowdown.

Imson said there were also issues on the application of the wage increase as some employers wanted to give the P30 on a staggered basis while others wanted the wage hike to cover only the minimum wage earners.

The DOLE has vowed to "exhaust all means" to resolve the wage hike issue within the week as militant labor groups grew impatient and threatened to elevate the petition to the National Wages and Productivity Commission.

"The last thing we need are more workers going hungry and joining the throngs of the unemployed," Sto. Tomas said in a statement. She, however, said she would also "appeal to workers to understand what is happening around the world."

A report from the Bureau of Labor and Employment Statistics showed that 41,785 workers were laid off from January to September while 37,239 were put on job rotation or temporarily laid off.

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(October 15-19, 2001)



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News that makes a difference

Mike appeals to 'missing link'

(From page A1)

An informant told the INQUIRER that Nunez left for the United States when news about the bribery broke out last August.

According to whistle-blower Bing Rodrigo, it was Nunez who told her about the involvement of Mr. Arroyo and three others in the bribe aimed at convincing President Macapagal-Arroyo to recall her veto of the telecommunications franchises of the Philippine Communications Clearinghouse Inc. and the APC Wireless Interface Network Inc. But she did not.

Rodrigo named the three persons who were allegedly involved: Lawyer Erlinda de Leon, confidential assistant to the President; Ito Los Baños, an alleged business partner of Mr. Arroyo; and Antonio Gatuslao, presidential legislative liaison to the House of Representatives.

But President Macapagal yesterday said she conducted her own "internal investigation" into the two scandals but found no irregularities.

"I did some investigation which resulted in nothing," the President said in a press conference in Malacañang yesterday.

Ms Macapagal cited the case of her assistant, Erlinda de Leon.

"If she had been on the take, she would have gone to me. Because, you know she's the one who gives all my papers to sign... and she never transmitted any message about that case," the President said.

The President, however, said that despite finding nothing, she preferred that the cases be investigated by the Office of the Ombudsman to preclude perceptions that the findings were influenced by Malacañang.

Sen. Noli gets 'text' from heaven

(From page A1)

mobile phone just before he led the opening prayer at the Senate Tuesday.

Convinced that it had been sent by God, he incorporated the message—"God made a promise that you won't have to face life alone... for when you grow weak in your struggles, His Strength will prevail and not your own"—in his introduction to the prayer.

But Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. was hardly moved.

"Am I supposed to believe that you received the message of God through your cell phone?" he demanded of the broadcaster-turned-senator.

"Yes, your Honor. That was my personal interpretation—that the message came from God Himself," said De Castro, drawing muffled laughter from some senators as well as the gallery.

"If that is so, then this is an act of blasphemy," Pimentel retorted.

But De Castro stuck to his guns. "I took it as a message from God. That was my personal impression," he said, adding:

"God sends His message in many ways. *Dinadaan Niya* (He sends this through) everything—dogs, birds, fish. Not only inside the church."

De Castro further argued that with the advent of modern technology, "there are so many ways of sending messages."

"And God can use modern communications," he said.

Mercifully, Senate Majority Leader Loren Legarda

"Rather than to announce that... it's better that it's somebody who is objective," Ms Macapagal said.

"That's why I referred the case(s) to the Ombudsman." In the Senate hearing, Rodrigo herself admitted that everything she knew about Mr. Arroyo's involvement was based on hearsay and text messages.

She said she had nothing to offer as evidence to substantiate her claim.

Mr. Arroyo insisted that the scandal was a "demolition job against me to reach the President."

He expressed confidence that he would be cleared by the Senate since there was no material evidence or witnesses to support the bribery claim.

"I feel relieved that the truth is coming out. It is clear that everything was based on hearsay and text messages," he said.

Rodrigo had testified that she did not know exactly how much money was allegedly given by the companies concerned with the franchises.

She said it was only through Nunez and text messages that she later found out about the exact amount.

Mr. Arroyo said he had merely reacted to text messages when he blamed Rodrigo for pocketing the bribe since the text message mentioned a former Malacañang secretary.

"It was a knee-jerk reaction on my part and I regret it," he said.

Mr. Arroyo said he already apologized to Rodrigo for the trouble caused by his "knee-jerk" reaction to her family.

Administration senators have vowed to boycott the hearing as they question the jurisdiction of the committee on constitutional amendments chaired by opposition Sen. Edgardo Angara to conduct an inquiry, saying the blue ribbon committee is the more appropriate venue.

asked for a one-minute suspension of the proceedings, thus ending the otherworldly exchange.

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Overall width (mm)	1,750	1,695
Rear body length (ft)	9.5	8
Chassis payload (kg)	1.2	1.0
SRP (Cab Chassis)	P430,000	P440,000

FEATURES	PREGIO FEST	HYVND-STRX	TYT-HA-GL	NSN-ESCPD
Engine Displacement/Type	2,665 cc/OHC	2,476 cc turbo intercooler diesel	1,998 cc/OHC	2,663 cc/OHV
Transmission	5 MT / 4AT	5 MT / 4 AT	5 MT	5 MT
Suspension type Front	D. Wishbone/coil spring	D. Wishbone	D. Wishbone	D. Wishbone
Rear	5-link/coil spring	5-link/coil spring	Rigid axle/leaf spring	Rigid axle/leaf spring
Second row seat-rotating 180°	✓	-	-	-
SRP	P705,000 MT P740,000 AT	P938,000 MT P978,000 AT	P867,000 MT	P780,000 MT

FEATURES	CARNIVAL	MIT-SGR	TYT-HA-GND
Engine Displacement/Type	2,902 cc turbo intercooler 16-valve DOHC diesel	2,477 cc Turbo diesel	2,985 cc OHC diesel
Maximum Output (PS @ rpm)	135 @ 3,800	87 @ 4,200	87 @ 4,000
Overall length (mm)	4,930	4,655	4,830
Overall width (mm)	1,895	1,695	1,690
Wheelbase (mm)	2,910	2,800	2,590
Transmission	5 MT / 4 AT	5 MT	5 MT
Suspension Type Front Coil	✓	-	✓
Rear Coil	✓	✓	✓
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Anthrax anxiety

It isn't of panic proportions yet, unlike the fear that gripped the families of children studying in private schools around Greenhills in San Juan and Ortigas Center in Pasig when scores of students were downed by the flu last month. But the mounting cases of anthrax attacks in the United States have certainly caused a lot of anxiety here.

In the last few days, several people in different parts of the country have turned over to health authorities letters suspected to carry the disease-causing bacteria. Almost all turned out to be letters of solicitation for subscription to The Economist, a prestigious British magazine. Similar letters were sent to the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, and as a precaution, SBMA officials ordered one whole building vacated and disinfected and made eight employees go through a decontamination process. Apparently the rule being observed now is better safe than sorry.

It isn't a bad rule really, but at the same time there seems to be a need for some people to temper their fears. Rare is the terrorist who doesn't choose his target, which is why the targets of terrorism have been the symbols of pride, prestige and power, like the Pentagon and the World Trade Center and more recently the US Senate and some media organizations. Thus, a farmer in Biliran, for instance, shouldn't kill himself with worry that he may be on the mailing list of Osama bin Laden or his gang of bio-terrorists, if he has any.

As for our homegrown terrorists, they may know how to fire guns and plant bombs, but it is almost next to impossible that they have the technical expertise to develop biological weapons. Anthrax may be easy to gather (the disease has been around for quite some time, afflicting animals), but converting it into a biological weapon requires a high degree of scientific sophistication.

In these times of uncertainty and high anxiety, our worst enemy may be fear itself.

Immaturity

FOR SOME opposition senators, it is not only the sins of the father that should be visited upon his children, the sins of the mother should, too. More than that, the sins of the children should be visited on the father also.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho learned this Wednesday during his confirmation hearing when Sen. Blas F. Ople reminded him about the transgressions of other members of Camacho's family.

First, Ople disclosed that Camacho's mother, Leonarda, had written him a "nasty letter." Ms Camacho said her son could not have made "reckless and irresponsible statements regarding the power bill," as Ople had charged, "because my son is not a politician." Surprised by Ople's revelation, Camacho could only say it was the first time he heard about the letter.

Then Ople recalled that during the impeachment trial of then President Joseph Estrada, Camacho's house in Urdaneta Village in Makati was plastered with posters hitting Estrada and some senators who were perceived to be supporting him. One such poster referred to Sen. Teresita Aquino-Oreta as "pokpok" (prostitute). Oreta herself confirmed that she saw those posters on Camacho's house. Camacho admitted that his children put up the posters in their house, but said he accepted full responsibility for what happened.

That explanation wasn't good enough for Ople. "The use of derogatory words against an elected senator is indicative of extreme emotional immaturity," he fumed.

That makes almost every independent journalist in town immature, we suppose. But what has that to do with Camacho? The letter was sent by his mother, and those posters were made by his children. Granted that Ople's measure of maturity is unerring, is he now saying the malady runs in the family?

If Camacho is immature, then he must be the best child actor the world has ever known. For how else could he have risen so fast and so high in the very competitive world of international finance and made hundreds of millions for himself (he is the richest member of the Cabinet with assets of more than P300 million) without being exposed?

If Camacho is immature, what does that make of the senator who practically slept like a baby through the first impeachment trial of a president? What does that make of the senators who closed their eyes to the overwhelming evidence of Estrada's greedy and corrupt ways? And what does that make of the senator who danced in glee when the Senate voted to suppress evidence that would prove Estrada guilty?

Religion causes so much strife

ISN'T it paradoxical that so much strife in the world—be it in Afghanistan, the Middle East, or Ireland—is caused by people's faith in God who, ironically, preaches love of fellowmen? This God comes by different names—Allah, Yahweh and Jehovah—but He is essentially the same God worshipped by Christians, Muslims and Jews alike. The Bible, which is a history of God's relationship with man, is the common denominator of all the nations of Christendom and of the world's three great religions. It links them with Judaism and with Islam. The Old Testament is virtually the same for Jews and Christians. And Islam takes five of its six great prophets from the Bible (Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses and Jesus Christ). They even share the holiest of holy places in the Holy Land where Christ was born, lived and died. During His short life, Christ preached love, forgiveness and the brotherhood of man. So why are the faithful followers of this one God fighting and killing one another? And the protagonists are killing their fellowmen in observance of their faith in God. Confusing, isn't it?

The bitterest and longest-running fight is between the Palestinians and the Jews in and around the holy places where Christ and Mohammed preached peace on earth, goodwill to men. This fight can be said to go back to biblical times, in fact, back to the first great patriarch, Abraham.

Abraham (originally named Abram) was a Mesopotamian married to Sarai (later renamed Sarah). He wanted an heir but Sarah could not bear him a son. So she gave him her Egyptian maid, Hagar, from whom he had a son, Ishmael. But at age 90, Sarah bore him her own son, Isaac, and as wives always will, forced Abraham to cast them into the desert.

As Ishmael lay dying in the desert, Hagar prayed to God to save him. A spring welled up beside Ishmael and they were saved. That

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz



spring became an oasis.

It is said that the Hebrews descended from Isaac and their bitterest enemies, the Arabs, descended from his half-brother, Ishmael.

Another great patriarch, Moses, led the Hebrews from bondage in Egypt to the Promised Land. His assistant, Joshua, led them to Canaan (the modern-day Palestine). The trouble was that the land of milk and honey was already occupied by other tribes, who could be the ancestors of the present-day Palestinians. The Hebrews fought off these tribes and neighbors and formed the kingdom of Israel, which reached its golden age during the reigns of David and Solomon.

After this, however, the Hebrews divided into two kingdoms: Israel and Judah (from which the name "Jew" derives). Israel fell to the Assyrians in 722; its peoples were dispersed and lost their identity. Judah fell to Nebuchadnezzar in 587; its people exiled to Babylon. Freed by Cyrus of Persia, they went back to the Holy Land but were invaded four more times: by the Greeks (hence the Greek name Judea), the Egyptians, the Syrians and by the Romans during the time of Jesus.

After World War I, the Zion Movement pressured the League of Nations to recreate the state of Israel as the home of the Jews. But World War II intervened before it became a reality. After the Holocaust during which Hitler gassed millions of Jews, the clamor for the recreation of Israel became more strident and the United Nations finally gave the Jews a homeland in what was then Palestine.

Separate realities

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros



Laden and his hosts in Afghanistan. Who in his right mind, Muslim or Christian, would want to support a bunch of people who insist on keeping themselves in the purity of backwardness, who blow up human treasures like the Buddhist statues in their mountains, who perform the most primitive and cruel rituals on their women? In fact, you do not have to like the Taliban to protest vociferously their obliteration from the face of the earth. You do not have to support the Taliban to find the bombing of their country as primitive and barbaric an act as the suicide attack on the World Trade Center. You do not have to be pro-Taliban to find the logic of extirpating a benighted people because they are guilty of harboring leaders who harbor terrorists as perverse as the one that says the American people must be punished for harboring leaders who harbor murderous thoughts.

The media like to think they merely report the news, not make them. But that is clearly not so at all. Certainly, having a near-monopoly of information offers tremendous opportunity, temptation and power not just to interpret the world but to manufacture one. Many years ago, John Pilger, an Australian journalist who won Britain's highest awards for his reportage on Vietnam and Cambodia, was already complaining about the kind of reality the Western media were foisting on the world. He cited as example the fact the day Robert Maxwell, the media mogul, died, he was front page and primetime material for a week. That same day, 6,000 people died in a mudslide in a place called Ormoc, which was the equivalent of the extinction of a Welsh mining village. That event merited only passing mention among the "fillers" of world events in the BBC.

The enemies of the Jews were ready. Egypt, Syria and Jordan attacked Israel but the Israelis were better warriors and defeated them. They tried a couple more times but were again defeated.

Palestine was created under Yasser Arafat across the river. No two neighbors are more unfit to be near each other. They have been fighting ever since. Not a day passes that there is no violence in the Gaza Strip and elsewhere.

This is the festering problem that turned Osama bin Laden against the United States for favoring Israel. That and the presence of infidel American soldiers in the sacred places in his homeland of Saudi Arabia during the Gulf War.

Bin Laden's luck (and the United States' bad luck) is that his family is very rich and he could afford to finance terrorist groups all over the world. And so the strife and suffering continues. The Jews, who have suffered centuries of persecution, should be able to identify with the Afghans who have suffered (and still continues to suffer) decades of war.

Even among the Christians, there is fighting because of religion. In Ireland, the Catholics are fighting the Protestants. In the Philippines, we have not only the Catholics and the Protestants, we have also the Aglipayan Church, the Iglesia ni Cristo, the Spiritists, and various Born-Again sects. These are all Christians worshipping the same God, His son Jesus and His mother Mary. They also read the same Bible, yet they can't agree with one another. Why?

KAPIHAN NOTES: Topic of next Monday's Kapihan sa Manila (Hotel) is the US-led war against terrorism and its effect and threat to the Philippines.

Guests are Vice President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, and Muslim leader Macapanton Abbas.

Pilger's complaint resonates even more loudly today. Nowhere is the awesome power of Western media to make news, to manufacture worlds, to create a separate reality more patent than in CNN's and the American wires' reportage of Sept. 11 and its aftermath. CNN's very titles say it all. "War on terror," "Strike against terror," and probably in future, "Winning the war against terror." These are not quotes from American officials to suggest that these are their subjective views. These are the CNN's own presumably objective depictions of events.

Nor are the phrases, "pro-Talibans" and "anti-Americans," quotes from American officials, they are the American wires' own words. They do not just appear in editorials or opinion columns, they appear in heads, captions, news stories. They do not just reflect the American government's reconstruction of the world as now rived into pro-Americans and pro-Talibans, or anti-Americans and anti-terrorists, they reflect their own deconstruction of the world in these terms.

Yet sublimely ironically, it's the very pillars of this journalistic community who complain that the small Arab network Al Jazeera is distorting the news and dishing biased and incendiary material by showing footage of the bombing of Afghanistan and Bin Laden holding a press conference. One Arab editor would say at BBC that, yes, some of the reportage are pretty incendiary, but they offer a new perspective on events, and so come as a fresh wind in a stale room. But quite apart from that, from the other end, calling everyone who protests the bombing of Afghanistan "pro-Taliban" or "anti-American" is not biased? Dividing the world into terrorists and anti-terrorists is not incendiary? Depicting the deaths of 7,000 Americans as a human tragedy and the deaths of countless Afghans as one of war's misfortunes is not distorting news?

"Don't believe everything you read in the papers," people joke all the time. These days, that's an advice very seriously worth taking.

Comments are welcome at dequiros@vasia.com

Appointments body settles scores

IT'S time for settling scores in Congress. The Commission on Appointments is now scrutinizing President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Cabinet appointments before Congress takes a recess next week, and a number of Cabinet members are running the legislative gauntlet.

The commission is the arena for legislative butchery. It is the inquisitorial tribunal where members of the commission (1) show to presidential appointees who is boss and that they have the power of political life and death over them; and (2) settle scores with those who have offended them. Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho had a taste of the commission meat-grinder when he appeared before it for confirmation of his appointment the other day.

Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta appeared at the hearing with unsheathed knife saying that she wanted to question Camacho on "his policies and fitness, integrity and competence as finance secretary." She was interested in something else. Acting as Oreta's proxy, Sen. Blas Ople raised the issue of the poster that appeared at Camacho's house in Urdaneta Village in the wake of the collapse of the impeachment trial of deposed President Estrada. The poster carried certain unprintable words about Oreta in connection with her ecstatic behavior in the Senate after it voted 11-10 to seal the envelope containing evidence of Estrada's bank assets.

Camacho said his sons put up the poster but he did not know what was written on it but took responsibility for the display of the poster. The poster had nothing to do with Camacho's integrity and competence—two words whose meaning apparently escaped Oreta. Ople brought up a grudge over a "nasty" letter written by Camacho's mother, Leonarda, who denounced Ople for saying that the secretary had "made reckless and irresponsible statements" about the power bill which the secretary defended in the last Congress. Camacho's fault is that he did not muzzle his mother. He had to pay for it. He had to pay for the fault of his children and of his mother.

People who have been appointed to the Cabinet had better be sure that their immediate relatives have not rubbed the prickly skin of the mem-

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila



bers of the commission, lest they be visited by the sins of their relatives. Another Cabinet member facing rough sailing is Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes. Some commission members have sharpened their knives to get back at Reyes for talking back at senators during the Senate hearings on the charges of alleged money laundering and drug trafficking against Sen. Panfilo Lacson. Charges against Reyes that he and the military are allegedly trying to undermine the Senate in a plot to seize power are certain to surface again during the confirmation hearings.

We have seen how the Senate can be nasty and overbearing. It detained Angelo "Ador" Mawanay for failure to produce evidence to back his testimony that he had sold Nokia cell phones to Sen. Loren Legarda-Leviste.

The administration is now receiving a windfall from its policy of backing the US-led international coalition waging war on terrorism. A team of American experts on terrorism has arrived in Mindanao to train Filipino soldiers in combat against terrorists. According to the government, the experts will not be armed and will not join combat operations. US assistance has been more forthcoming following the suicide terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. These attacks jolted the United States out of its smugness as the sole superpower and forced it to realize that it takes alliances on many areas to combat international terrorism.

During the abduction of hostages by the Abu Sayyaf at the Dos Palmas resort in Palawan last May, the government sought hi-tech assistance from the United States in tracking down the outlaws as they fled toward Basilan. Since some of the hostages were Americans, the United States

provided assistance in the form of satellite photos. But the processing and handover of the photos took time, and by the time Philippine authorities had them, the bandits had reached Basilan. The delays were frustrating to Philippine authorities whose campaign in Basilan was being evaded by the Abu Sayyaf.

Although further hi-tech facilities were given to the Philippine government to help the troops fight the Abu Sayyaf in Basilan, it's only now that Filipino troops are receiving the training to enhance their commando fighting skills. Filipino troops are also receiving equipment.

The increased US assistance flows from the need for international cooperation in hunting down terrorists. The United States has tagged the Philippines as one of the key links of terrorist networks in Asia, associated with Osama bin Laden and al-Qaida. Previous to the Sept. 11 attacks, the United States considered the Abu Sayyaf as a Philippine domestic problem. In a reversal of its isolationist tendencies shaping up before Sept. 11, the keyword now in the US-led offensive against terrorism is globalized cooperation in diplomatic initiatives, intelligence exchanges and freezing bank assets of terrorist organizations.

The Senate hearings on the charges against Senator Lacson have taken a toll on Lacson's public opinion approval rating. Pulse Asia's third quarter survey taken between Sept. 22 and Oct. 4 shows that among the senators, Lacson received the third lowest net approval rating of 18 percent. Lacson's rating has taken a deep dive. At the bottom are Sen. Robert Jaworski (11 percent) and Senator Oreta (10 percent). This means that Oreta has not yet recovered in public opinion from her celebrated jig during the Senate impeachment vote. Col. Victor Corpus, Lacson's accuser, has a net approval rating of 7 percent, with 33 percent of the respondents undecided on his performance. Significant for Reyes and the Commission on Appointments is that the armed forces received an approval rating of 53 percent, joining most Cabinet departments and government agencies which polled more than 50 percent approval rating.

Blundering into the anthrax scare

THE HEADLINE story of "Saksi," the early-evening news show on Channel 7, sounded ominous: Anthrax hits Manila! But when the report by Jiggy Manicad aired, the hype was, at least for me, deflated. The story was based on an interview with a businessman, the cousin of a senator, who pushed the panic button after he received a "suspicious-looking" white envelope in the mail. The envelope bore the names of such world leaders and celebrities as Richard Branson, Lee Kuan Yew, Nelson Mandela, Kim Dae-jung, Aung San Suu Kyi, Bill Gates and even George W. Bush. But what really alarmed him, "Mang Dado" said, was that right below the crossed-out names was his name, handwritten in the same red ink. Even more alarming was that at the bottom of the "inter-office envelope" was the remark: "Important: Before canceling last entry, make sure envelope is empty."

This was enough provocation for "Mang Dado" to call the media, specifically GMA-7 news. The previous recipients, he said, could very well have been targets of terrorists. And what was his name doing alongside such worthies? The "Saksi" TV crew offered to call the Department of Health. The health officials then advised "Mang Dado" to place the unopened envelope in a sealed plastic bag and bring it to the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine in Alabang to determine if it indeed contained anthrax powder.

Meantime, the reporter had handled the envelope, and the crew had taken shots of it. After they rushed the envelope to the RITM, Manicad reported, he and his crew even started to feel their hands and faces itching.

I HAPPENED to be home watching the news, when I caught sight of the envelope Manicad and "Mang Dado" were handling. It looked familiar. Then I remembered a similar envelope I'd received about three or four days previously and had opened.

Like "Mang Dado," I was intrigued when I found my name in the same list as those internationally famous personalities. It was enough for me, who usually shoots junk mail straight to the wastebasket, to take time to open it and read its

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David



contents. It turned out to be a solicitation for a subscription to "The Economist," on the premise that by subscribing to the magazine, I would be in the same league as those personalities on the envelope. Though annoyed, I was also amused, and left the envelope and its contents lying around, making a mental note to show it to the hubby so we could laugh about it.

I felt sorry for "Mang Dado" who panicked at the sight of what turned out to be a marketing gimmick, and worried about the hundreds of other people who might have received similar envelopes and be thrown into a panic. I also worried for my friends at GMA News, should the story grow and be exposed for the comedy of errors it would surely turn out to be.

So I called my friend Luchi Cruz Valdes and told her that I'd received and opened an envelope like the one "Mang Dado" received. Because we kept getting cut off, I texted her later, saying "no cause for alarm, I opened it 3-4 days ago pa, and nothing happened."

SOME minutes later, I got a call from the GMA-7 newsroom, telling me that a reporter would be coming over to interview me. "No, all I wanted to do was to assure everybody that the envelope is harmless," I protested, but they insisted. (By the way, I did call the INQUIRER newsroom, feeling a bit foolish, but was put on hold since I forgot to identify myself.)

So it was that after dinner, a reporter and crew rang our doorbell and interviewed me. I showed them the envelope and its contents, and on camera was asked why I opened it. But I also added that while I understood that "Mang Dado" may

have had cause for alarm, I wanted to assure others who'd received similar envelopes that they had nothing to fear.

When the footage aired in the late-evening newscast "Front Page," my soundbite was reduced to a rather sheepish-looking columnist saying she felt "thrilled" seeing her name with those celebrities and so she opened the envelope.

A friend texted and called me the next day wanting to know if I was okay and if I hadn't come down with anthrax. A friend working in another TV station wanted to know if I or anybody else in the family had gotten sick, because he received a similar envelope, opened it and had left it on his desk around which his young daughter had played. Somehow, I had blundered into an anthrax scare.

I'D have remained silent about this misadventure in the broadcast media if I hadn't watched "Saksi" again the next night. The show still led with the anthrax scare, this time about a plastic bag full of letter envelopes left in a jeep, and followed-up "Mang Dado's" report. There was an interview with the manager of the direct-mailing company that sent out those by-now controversial envelopes, and even a plea from the head of the direct-mailing association to people to please open envelopes from their members as their livelihood depended on it. But after Manicad's live report, anchor Mike Enriquez still asked him if he still felt some itching, and the reporter replied: "a little." It also carried a breaking news report from Subic where employees had received similar envelopes. This despite what the news desk already knew. No wonder the same show reported that the RITM had been deluged with unopened envelopes and packages from all over the metropolis.

Now, I don't know who'll end up on the right or wrong end of the story. Reports I've read say that the anthrax infection may not manifest any symptoms until after as much as six weeks. If members of our household start breaking out in lesions or come down with mysterious flu-like symptoms, then GMA-7 had a scoop. But if not, maybe it's time to give the anthrax scare a rest.

Coaxing out the Filipino voice

IT is now unfashionable to believe the late Teodoro Agoncillo's statement that there was no Philippine history before 1872 (the execution of Gomburza), because most of what passed for our history was written by Spaniards and an assortment of foreigners. For lack of an authentic Filipino voice in these biased sources, Agoncillo said that we had the history of Spain in the Philippines, not Philippine history. While it is true that Filipinos were too occupied with survival to bother writing about themselves and their times, this does not mean that they are lost to history. There are ways to turn a biased source around to coax out the Filipino voice, hidden in what the late William Henry Scott aptly described as "cracks in the parchment curtain."

Jose Rizal did this in 1890 when he annotated the 1609 "Sucesos de las islas Filipinas" by Antonio de Morga. Most memorable of Rizal's annotations is when Morga said that the Filipinos ate and relished rotten beef and stinking fish. Rizal explained that the stinking fish was not rotten, it was fermented. He added that while the smell was an assault on Morga's senses, this "stinking fish" was actually *bagoong*, a staple in our cuisine. Rizal did not write a history of the Philippines, but he was the first to read and interpret it from a Filipino point of view.

I am fascinated by travel accounts of the Philippines by foreigners, particularly descriptions of food and eating where a clash of cultures begins. Filipino hospitality includes offering tourist's delicacies like *balut*, *azucena* (dog) and *kamaru* (crispy mole cricket). Since food to one person is poison to another, it is in food that I find the most to thank about.

G.J. Younghusband, a British officer, was in a Spanish-run hotel in Manila in 1898 and was not impressed by the food of which he left a very graphic description. It is the most amusing restaurant review I have found. Definitely a type that will never come from Doreen Fernandez, but

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo



may with more humor proceed from Clinton Palanca's gastronomic musings. Younghusband broke any and all romantic ideas I had gotten from pictures of old Manila as he wrote:

"The perennial menu consisted of soup, very thin and greasy, and presumably made from boiled dish cloths. As *pièce de résistance* came a portion of venerable cow, the father or mother of all cows, such original nutriment as it possessed having first been boiled out of it and possibly sold as soup elsewhere. Next would come a nameless horror, which a confiding public was invited to believe to be an *entrée*; this article from a purely archaeological and geological point of view had some interest, and it might be of value to [a museum]...for exhibition. Some people maintain that it was made of fragments of Egyptian mummy; others said that we were merely using up the broken remains of Montojo's fleet. For myself I prefer to keep an open mind and leave conjecture to the scientists."

Boiled dishcloth? Fragments of mummy? Could this be *ropa vieja* (literally, old rag) that is still served today? This resembles *nilagang baka*, reheated so many times the meat disintegrates into strips and the soup turns thick and oily. It could have been recycled food we all endured in school canteens—fried chicken today becomes tomorrow's *tinolang manok*. The possibilities are endless for an imaginative cook. Analyzing this century-old review made me feel like an archaeologist trying to figure out the past from broken

pieces of earthenware and pieces of bones. Younghusband continues:

"Occasionally, a venerable fish was added to the feast, and the banquet closed with a weird dish called *carey*, which consisted of small chunks of some defunct bird, by courtesy understood to be a fowl, floating about in liquid train-oil slightly spiced."

Chicken curry or *kare-kare*? If it was curry, where could he get Indian food in 1898 Manila? Did Younghusband stay at the Fonda Francesca de Lala Ari, the hotel mentioned in the "Noli Me Tangere"? This was owned by an Indian named Lala Ari and I presume that despite its pretensions to French service, they had chicken curry in the menu.

Younghusband complained that, "No butter seems to be obtainable, if one excepts a yellow horror reputed to be manufactured from old cocoa-nut chips, and the sight of which would certainly give any right-minded cow delirium tremens." At the time, butter was imported in cans from Australia. I'm not a century old but cakes and *ensaimadas* in my childhood were made with canned Brun butter from Australia. Perhaps Younghusband was given lard with yellow coloring of a type my father sold in his pre-war *sari-sari* store.

From May 1898, Manila was under a US blockade and food supplies were scarce and expensive. More significant is that Younghusband was all praises for the Union Restaurant in Malolos, Bulacan, then the capital of the First Philippine Republic. Before his audience with Emilio Aguinaldo, our food reviewer raved over a first-class omelet, Oxford sausages and *café au lait* in Malolos. While Manila was enduring a famine, all the gastronomic goodies were in Malolos. No wonder they had that legendary banquet of Sept. 29, 1898. What does all this say about this little-known period in our history? A lot.

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

Coping with age

I REALIZE that as I pass through the stages of life with the changes that each brings, there is something that remains unchanging. This, I call my I-ness. I feel that I am the same person who on the first day of school was challenged by the teacher to write the number 8 on the board. I was in Grade 1, I have never attended nursery, kindergarten or prep. The teacher asked the class: "Who can write the number 8 on the board?" Nobody moved, nobody dared. Because I was looking wide-eyed at her, she focused on me and said, "Write the number 8." I stood up, went to the board, drew a small circle over a bigger one. Number 8. Even if it was not the proper way of writing 8, I was rewarded with a big smile and the teacher said, "Correct!" That marked the start of my love affair with schooling.

Now that I am past 70, I still feel I am the same person who answered the first question of my first teacher, the same girl who transferred from a strict, ultra-conservative "maestra-led" girls' institute to a strict, less conservative college run by nuns, the same girl who survived the ordeal of a Japanese occupation, the same one who felt the sweet stirrings of first love at 17, who married, gave birth to six sons only to lose the youngest, the same person who experienced several changes of domicile from Manila to Zamboanga City to Quezon City to Dagupan to Pasay and then back to Quezon City, the same person who changed jobs from St. Theresa's College Manila to Ateneo de Manila to Ateneo de Zamboanga and Pilar College to Zamboanga Normal College to Bayambang Teachers' College to De La Salle University and finally to an NGO, the Catholic Ministry to Deaf People Inc.

Through these many changes, there was something that remained constant, my I-ness. I thought that because I felt the same way inside, I would also look the same outside. That is why it was a harsh awakening to the true state of affairs when at the market after some haggling over a kilo of tomatoes, the vendor said, "Si lola naman..." At first I thought she was referring to someone else but I was the only customer!

The first thing I did upon reaching home was to inspect more closely my skin, hair, teeth, eyes, figure...the verdict? The vendor was correct. I am no longer young!

No longer can I ignore the warnings of well-meaning friends who say, "Be careful especially when reaching for something up there." True enough, we were packing to go to Davao for a regional CFM meeting. Too lazy to get a chair to enable me to get something from the upper drawer, I supported myself by putting my feet on the lower floor of the cabinet and fell headfirst, heard a loud thud and felt a "bukol" on my head. My son came running up. I did not see his face but he must have been amused by what he saw.

Now, I always get a chair to add inches to my height. Somehow at home often reminds me to take my vitamins B, C, E, calcium, diamicron. It has become a habit to put a tablespoonful of apple cider vinegar cum honey to my first glass of water. I walk slowly, eyes downcast to avoid stones, holes, mud puddles and peelings—I'm afraid lest I fall and break my bones. I remember having fallen flat on my face in Ohio University when I was 61. Why? Because like a *promdi*, I kept looking around at all the new things I saw. Ohio University brings back another scene. My class was at 1 p.m. It was summer. The sun was up, so I walked to school with my reliable umbrella protecting me from the sun, oblivious of the stares of people around. It was a choice between doing the "never happened before" and suffering migraine. At 61 I had reached a point where comfort was the order of the day.

When I told this story to my colleagues in the Philippines, Menito said, "Nagwala ka Sally sa Ohio?"

Speaking of comfort, my favorite attire now is soft low-heeled shoes, loose bra-less (*kung puwede*) clothing. Minimalist, *kuna*.

One need that refuses to go away is the need to be needed. One needs to feel useful, to still be relevant. I am blessed in the sense that after retirement, I was led to the Deaf Ministry. A classmate, Isabelita F. Alcantara, upon learning that I have returned from traveling abroad to visit my children, invited me to meet Sr. Rita Marie Pickhink, RSM, founder of the Catholic Ministry to Deaf People Inc. Sister Rita intended to return home for good and took me in. That began my involvement with the hearing impaired who have their own culture, their own language and in a way, their own world. I was doubly fortunate in the sense that now I do something I have never done before (which experts say is ideal to prod the other side of my brain to become active) and also feel useful.

One blessing that stands out, too, is my having been a teacher. Now that I have retired, it's harvest time! In my travels, I invariably meet a former student who takes care of me. In Indonesia, there were Ridwan and Brother Martin; in Bangkok, Wanee; in Pusan, Fr. Peter Cho; in Sydney, Lynnie. My husband and I were able to kiss the Pope's ring on the eve of his 80th birthday because of a dear student, Bro. Joel Ponsaran. There are gifts from all over: Thai pillowcases from Jan; a batik tablecloth from Yusup; textile from India courtesy of Father Arul; and a statue of Our Lady from Sri Lanka. My children tease me by saying the gifts are in exchange for high grades. They forget that at this point in my life, there are no more grades to mark.

The love and care come not only from students but also from friends. Contributing to my joy are my support groups: my prayer circle composed of cousins, my classmates (STC '47, Coll '51) and Women Plus. The last named are 12 women growing together, learning from each other while having fun.

The big factor though in helping us come to terms with this last stage is family. I derive positive meaning from being a wife, mother and grandmother. No happiness can be greater than basking in the affection and devotion of one's husband, children and grandchildren. Three of my children are living abroad but I feel they are only a step away, thanks to the e-mail and telephone. One lives with us and the other, who practices in San Fernando, Pampanga, call me nightly to ask, "May problema ba?"

The warmest security blanket, though, is who holds us in the "palm of His hand."

Truly, I feel this stage is the best. Being attuned to reality, I am comfortable with being less than perfect. I have become bolder to do my own thing and not be tied to the "tyranny of others." I am glad that I had the good sense to pack my life with happy memories so I can look back, pick the most cherished moments and feel "warm all over."

THEY SAID

Never painful to give

"Times are difficult, but there are those of us who live in a society of excess. It shouldn't be too painful to give."
—Vicky Wieneke, co-convenor of Kabisigng Kalahi which seeks to feed and educate malnourished kids in impoverished areas

Talking expertise

"If you're incompetent to talk about the PAOCTR, then what are you competent to talk about?"
—Sen. Joker Arroyo said to Senior Supt. John Campos

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Is the Philippines at war?

DOES a state of war now exist between the Philippines and Afghanistan? Are we already at war against all those identified by Washington as terrorists and the countries and/or institutions which harbor them?

These questions should be clarified in the light of "the all-out support" repeatedly expressed by President Macapagal and her spokespersons for the United States' war against terrorism. The support includes the use by US military aircraft—destined to or from the Afghanistan war theater—of Clark, Subic, Ninoy Aquino and other airports for refueling and other purposes. It also means an active government campaign, including intelligence sharing, against suspected terrorists. If asked by Washington, the Macapagal administration is committed

in advance to send troops, combat or otherwise, to Afghanistan and other war theaters.

For all intents and purposes, therefore, the Philippines is now at war. The enemy, consisting of Afghanistan and all anti-US terrorists in the world, may hit Filipinos anywhere, but the danger is gravest and most immediate in the Arab Gulf states of Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates where over 1.3 million Filipino workers are employed. In Pakistan, Indonesia and Malaysia, where there are Filipinos and where Muslim fundamentalism has significant and rapidly growing followers, the danger is also imminent.

Section 23 of Article VI of our Constitution says: "The Congress, by a vote of two-thirds of both Houses in joint session assembled,



voting separately, shall have the sole power to declare the existence of a state of war."

Has the administration plunged the nation into war—the United States' first in the 21st century and the first against an ill-defined enemy—in violation of the Constitution? Invoking the pro-war resolution of the United Nations cannot alter the constitutional situation.—**AMADO GAT INCIONG, Unit 301, Union Square Condominium, 145 15th Avenue, Cubao, Quezon City**

Long years of service should guarantee security of tenure

I WOULD like to reply to the Oct. 13, 2001 letter of Normita Villanueva, executive director of the Career Executive Service Board (CESB), commenting on my letter regarding the appointments of Emma Rosqueta and Gil Valera as deputy commissioners of the Bureau of Customs.

In her letter, Villanueva discussed the procedure for acquiring security of tenure in the government service, i.e., examination, assessment, interview and validation of on-the-job performance. She pointed out that there is an age limit for the examination, i.e., 55 years old, except in cases of incumbents who must not be over 60 years old. I have been informed that the age requirement has since been modified.

Based on the procedure she outlined, Rosqueta appears to have acquired eligibility since she was exempted from the exam, she

underwent the assessment and interview, and her on-the-job performance was validated. In other words, Rosqueta has complied with the procedural requirements and should have been issued the certificate or proof of eligibility by the CESB.

Procedure, however, should not be considered to be as important as the substance of the law. Rosqueta has been with the BOC since 1962, moving up the ranks through merit and fitness. This is the ideal path envisioned for public servants. For almost 40 years, she worked at the BOC without controversy or irregularity. Surely, she must have acquired security of tenure after her long and committed work. Simple fairness and basic justice dictate that she be protected against arbitrary termination without cause or due process. She has acquired rights and

privileges for doing her job all these years in the government.

Villanueva is sending the wrong message to millions of public servants if she fails to see the bigger picture, and insists on sticking to procedure as the sole basis for eligibility. Procedures are mere formalities. Public servants are looking for incentives and reasons to dedicate their careers to government service. If, as Villanueva implies, they cannot be protected because of formalities, they might decide that government service doesn't deserve their dedication and sacrifice.

I submit that with her long years of service and exemplary work, Rosqueta's tenure should be protected and her services should not be terminated.—**BENNY P. DE GUZMAN, 377 Columbia St., Greenhills East, Mandaluyong City**

The Muslims in our midst

"THE POOR Muslims are being singled out for the transgressions of a few misguided people who happen to share their religion." ("Racial profiling," PDI 10/1/01)

Thus, Ambeth R. Ocampo observed with perspicacity our attitude toward our Muslim *kababayan*. I empathize with the Maguindanaos, Tausogs and Maranaos who are followers of Islam. Even now, a number of uninformed *kababayans* equate my being born in Cotabato City with a Moro psychological syndrome. True, I have friends who have embraced the Muslim faith but that does not make me a Muslim.

The media hype freely using "Muslim terrorist" is truly unfair. But at times we are to be blamed. Who says that Mindanao is Muslim as in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao? Why is it that we do not have Catholic Visayas or Catholic Luzon? From my readings, the Moros have never occupied the whole of Mindanao. They have been concentrated in the western and southern portions of Mindanao.

About 94 percent of the Moros

belong to four ethnic groups: Maguindanao of the Cotabato region, the Maranao-Ilanun of Lanao, and the Tausug and Samal of Sulu. The Badjao (Samal Laut), Kalagan, Kolibugan (Kalibugan), Molbog (Melebuganon), Palawani (Muslim Pinalawan), Sangil (Sangir) and the Yakan Moros are considered Muslim minority groups and they speak various ethnic languages and dialects.

The Abu Sayyaf rebels have no ideological direction but they are perceived by the public to be sons of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the Moro National Liberation Front—ergo the MILF and the MNLF are "terrorists."

Before we see the "terrorists" in all our Muslim Filipinos, maybe media practitioners should immerse themselves in Muslim-Filipino history and culture. Islam means submission (to the will of God).

Not all Moros are extreme Muslim fundamentalists.—**SAMUEL P. FERNANDEZ, Polytechnic University of the Philippines, Sta. Mesa, Manila**

Enough experience with coal power plants

AFTER READING the news on the recent revelation on the vast expanse of toxic waste in Calaca, Batangas, I am alarmed that the same thing will happen to my province, Negros Occidental, if the government will continue to support the Pulupandan 50-mw Circulating Fluidized Bed Coal-fired Power Plant. The proposed plant will be built on a 23-hectare lot in Barangay Patic, 30 kilometers south of Bacolod City. The project, according to its "concerned" proponent, the Central Negros Power Corp. (CNPC), is touted as a major source of reliable power for the rising demand for electricity in Negros Occidental and is planned to be operational after a two-year construction period.

I am writing my objection and am appealing for everybody's support against the issuance of an environmental compliance certificate (ECC) to the CNPC coal-fired power plant (date: Dec. 28, 2000 by former Environment Secretary Antonio Cerilles) after all the indignant protests of the residents of Pulupandan and of the nearby towns and cities. Has the government forgotten the hazardous effects of coal plants or should I reiterate what has been written and heard from the news that justifies the reasons why we should stop the construction of the coal plant?

The high mercury concentration, which results in subtle human poisoning as proven in Minamata, Japan, is just one of the toxic threats. The proposed site which is situated beside a housing subdivision and a community high school, and close to other communities

constituting the Pulupandan poblacion (the town's most populated area) posts great risks to the people and their surroundings. Communities surrounding existing coal power plants in the Philippines (like Mauban, Quezon; Pagbilao, Quezon; Sual, Pangasinan; and Zambales) attest to the detrimental effects brought about by the smokestack emission. Once the venomous smoke is discharged and distributed in the atmosphere, the components will react with other elements causing harmful results not only to the environment but also to the people's health once it returns to the ground.

The most common gas is sulfur dioxide, a sulfur compound that is especially poisonous to trees, causing chlorosis (yellowing or blanching) and dwarfing. Human exposure to the gas results in irritation of the upper respiratory tract, because it is highly soluble and dissolves in the mucus of the throat and trachea. Chronic, long-term exposure to this can overload and incapacitate the human body's natural defense and immune system, resulting in the development of one or more respiratory conditions. These respiratory conditions can take the form of an allergic reaction, such as asthma, or a disease condition, such as lung cancer or chronic bronchitis.

Unless we stop the "arrogance" of the government in pushing through with the proposed coal plant, the same misfortune can happen to Pulupandan.—**JACLYN FAITH CHUA, Bacolod City, Negros Occidental**

Time for a national ID

A NATIONAL ID System was proposed during former President Fidel V. Ramos' time. The past administration also pushed for it but nothing happened because of strong protests against its passing.

As a Filipino citizen, I support the bill being espoused by Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. The National ID System can help the government keep track of people who are threats to our national security.

Perhaps the skeptics are the same people who want to remain incognito because they are the ones who have something to hide.

Once and for all, the people should unite and agree about having a systematized ID system. Having one will be for our protection and benefit. John Does can no longer transact business indiscreetly without first revealing who they really are. Isn't this something?

Most of us fail to realize what we could get out of the system. We always find loopholes and flaws because it's the fad and maybe the "in thing" to do over any issue.—**CLAMY PEÑA, Barangay Cruz na Ligas, UP Diliman, Quezon City**

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SPECIAL REPORT

Refurbishing the National Housing Authority

About two and a half months after making that vow, the President wanted to know if progress has been made towards its fulfillment. So that when she visited the National Housing Authority (NHA) during its 26th anniversary commemoration last Monday (Oct. 15), she showed impatience when she was toured at the traditional exhibitions on medium-rise housing technology at the agency grounds.

"These are the usual things," she said of the exhibitions. "I want to know what has been done to build the 150,000 houses I have promised our people," she told the NHA officials.

Of the 150,000 houses she wanted built for every year of her administration, 50,000 units will be heavily subsidized by government since these are intended for the poorest sectors whose irregular incomes, if at all, do not allow them to amortize at more than P1,000 a month. At an average cost of P180,000, government will have to cough up about P9 billion to build these houses.

The NHA has committed to build 25,000 houses out of the targeted 50,000 socialized housing units. The other half of the total target is the responsibility of the National Home Mortgage Finance Corp. (NHMFC). NHA's target will cost P4.5 billion, posing a big headache to the cash-strapped housing agency, which the President herself detected and tried to diagnose during her visit last Monday.

Meeting the challenge

"There is no question that we can build the 25,000 units, especially if we are provided with enough funding," NHA general manager Edgardo D. Pamintuan told mediamen after the visit of the President. He admitted, however, that the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) has not released even a single centavo out of NHA's P1.1 billion appropriation this year. Pamintuan said NHA is surviving on its corporate funds and receipts, which are already depleted.

To temporarily bail out the NHA from its budgetary woes, the President suggested that it... from the Comprehensive... and Integrated Shelter Financing Act or CISFA (RA 7835) for Metro Manila projects. Among others, the law provides for the allocation and release of P3 billion from 1995 to 2000 for the local housing program of congressional districts.

But only P1.1 billion has so far been appropriated, and only P639 million has been issued special allotment release orders (SARO). Of the latter, only P337 million has been issued the notice of cash allocation (NCA), equivalent to P1.6 million for every congressional district.

The problem is, the NHA cannot just dip its hands into the CISFA funds without getting into trouble with the congressmen. And the congressmen would want that if houses were to be built using their funds, it should be in

their congressional districts and not in Metro Manila.

Focusing on the poor

"The President wants the NHA to concentrate on servicing the housing needs of the poorest sectors, which means that we have to incur subsidies. To be able to do that, and realizing our perennial budgetary problems, we will have to be extra creative," Pamintuan explained.

For the year 2002, the DBM has proposed a budget of P500 million for the NHA, or just half of its current unreleased budget. From this amount, the NHA can only build 5,520 housing units.

By targeting to raise P1 billion from its corporate receipts and borrow P500 million from commercial banks, the agency could build an additional 3,750 residential units, award some 4,140 serviced lots, and assist 3,212 families through its slum upgrading program.

With a P2 billion budget, the NHA could only hope to service 16,622 families next year.

During the congressional budget hearings, the NHA pleaded for more funding support, asking for P3.057



Beyond housing people

"Frankly, I felt disappointed when I noted that the primary thrust of the NHA has been to relocate the so-called informal settlers from government lands eyed for development, or those living in areas where government infrastructure projects are to be constructed. I thought, that was patently anti-poor," said Pamintuan.

"I think that if government should resettle families from their squalid living conditions, it should be to improve the quality of their lives, not

builds to between P50,000 to P70,000.

"We can actually do this if we will use suitable government lands for housing, thereby skirting the cost of acquiring private lands," he said. The NHA, he added, is also looking at various arrangements whereby it could tap the services of the Philippine Army's engineering brigade.

So with a likely budget of P2.5 billion, but at dramatically reduced construction costs, NHA may yet be able to meet its targets for next year.

Filling the backlog

According to government estimates, the national housing backlog stands at 4.2 million units. The enormous headache of trying to fill the gap is shared by five housing agencies. The NHA has the difficult task of servicing sectors that can hardly afford to pay amortizations, like those living under the bridges and along riverbanks and esteros.

Headed by Pamintuan, a former human rights lawyer and Angeles City mayor

whose exposure to the housing program was when he was confronted with the problem of urgently relocating and housing thousands of Mount Pinatubo victim-families, the NHA has had a low profile existence through the years despite the fact that housing has always been a priority program of

Building homes, lives

At the NHA anniversary celebrations last Monday, the NHA unveiled a new corporate slogan that Pamintuan introduced, "Building homes, building lives."

He explains: "To an ordinary Filipino family, the home is from which almost everything springs forth—relationships, aspirations, successes. That is why if we are to provide our poor and homeless people with houses, we should as well see to it that we provide them opportunities to become better as a people and as citizens."

To refurbish the housing agency to become more "people-oriented," Pamintuan has prescribed what he called the "four pillars" of the "new" NHA. These are: 1) a total quality approach that provides for quality livable dwelling units, with provisions for viable livelihood opportunities and a full range of social and health amenities; 2) modernization of internal systems and processes; 3) pro-active strategic partnering to promote critical resources-sharing between the public and private sectors in the implementation of housing projects; and 4) corporate and fiscal viability.

"We are also in the process of strengthening and rebuilding NHA to be more responsive to the challenges at hand, but the urgency of being able to perform to the commitments of our President should also be simultaneously addressed," Pamintuan said.

"Our people are already impatient and restive, as we have seen at Edsa several times. People are also demonstrating at our offices to demand fulfillment of the promises of government at providing them decent homes and security of tenure in areas they are now occupying, some of which are prime government lands. That is why I understand the impatience of the President in this regard," he said.

"In so far as we in the housing sector are concerned, it is either we perform or perish. And I believe so," Pamintuan said.



of Reps. Satur Ocampo of Bayan Muna and Ed Zialcita of Paranaque, committed to realign P500 million from the proposed 2002 national budget to help out the NHA.

To cope with having limited resources, Pamintuan said NHA will have to find ways to bring down the average cost of each housing unit it

almost all administrations since its creation in 1975.

The agency has reported that it has already serviced 539,000 families all over the country during the past 26 years. Upon his appointment by President Arroyo as general manager, Pamintuan, however, noted a disturbing point in the priorities of NHA throughout the years.

The WORLD

LIVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

'Moderate' Taliban reported discussing Bin Laden handover

ISLAMABAD—The United States is having indirect contact with "moderate" elements of Afghanistan's Taliban militia to seek the extradition of Osama bin Laden, a senior western diplomatic source said yesterday.

"Yes, there are some important Taliban officials who have differences with the current leadership who are talking, through Pakistan, to the Americans," said the source, without elaborating. The diplomat did not comment on speculation that Taliban Foreign Minister Wakil

Ahmed Mutawakel has been holding secret talks with Pakistani officials over possibilities for Bin Laden's handover.

Taliban Minister of Education Mullah Amir Khan Mutaqi on Thursday dismissed the rumors and insisted the secretive Islamic militia was united against US aggression.

"Mutawakel is in Kandahar and he is in contact with us," he said, referring to the Taliban's southern nerve center where supreme leader Mullah Mohammad Omar lives.

"He may talk to the media today. There is no split in the Taliban and we are united."

The Taliban militia is seen as being roughly divided into two camps: those, in-

cluding Omar who are close to Bin Laden, and a more moderate faction who do not share the Saudi-born militant's hatred for the West.

Mutawakel is reportedly leading efforts by the so-called moderates to open contacts with the United States with a view to participating in a post-crisis government.

The foreign minister has not been seen or heard of for days and there have been rumors that he has visited Pakistan, either on an official trip, a private mission or to defect.

Whether or not there is a camp of disaffected moderates, there has been no sign that they are mounting a challenge to Omar's leadership or that they are in a position to do so.

Recent analysis of the regime's decision-making structures has pointed to a shift from the previous division of hardliners based in Kandahar and moderates in Kabul, a system which had some natural checks and balances, to a far more insulated and uncompromising clique based around Omar and Bin Laden.

Even here, it is unclear how much influence Bin Laden has over Omar and the Taliban militia itself, and whether the militia could hand him over even if they wanted to.

Claimed sightings of Mutawakel have been pouring in from all over Pakistan. On Tuesday he was spotted at a hotel in Rawalpindi, and firm sightings on Wednesday had him simultaneously in Quetta and Peshawar—600 km apart. **AFP**



YOUNG Muslim girls watch a speaker from behind a placard appealing for peace during a rally in Sydney Oct. 18 by students demanding an end to the bombings of Afghanistan. **REUTERS**

Saudi warns citizens: Avoid militants

DUBAI—Saudi Arabia's interior minister warned citizens not to sympathize with those he said sought to harm the kingdom in the name of Islam and urged officers to be firm in fighting them, the official media reported on yesterday.

The minister, Prince Nayef bin Abdul-Aziz, issued a thinly veiled threat that anyone involved in activities that could disrupt the country's security faced drastic penalties.

"Be vigilant and reject those who try to impair security in the name of Islam... We are the people of Islam and its country," he said in a televised speech to a gathering of security officers.

"Unfortunately we find in our homeland those who sympathize with them. We tell the naïve and the misled: regain your senses or submit and let responsibilities be shouldered by those fit to do so," he said.

"A body might have ailments. An organ of it could become ill, but the organ that gets ill would be amputated," the minister warned.

Security officers should not "show compassion toward anyone—even the closest of kin—who tries to toy with the security of the homeland," he said, according to the full text of the speech published by the official Saudi Press Agency.

"You should not take blame as you serve the purposes of God," Prince Nayef told the officers. The conservative kingdom's tribal society is governed by norms that require solidarity with fellow tribesmen.

Prince Nayef made several indirect references to Saudi-born dissident Osama bin Laden, Washington's prime suspect in the Sept. 11 suicide attacks on the United States.

"They say that your brethren are suffering death... what is happening today in Afghanistan is that a limited group came and plunged that country and its resources in an inferno whose conclusion is known only to God," Prince Nayef said.

Bin Laden has urged Muslims to "rise to defend" their religion and said that the "wind of change is blowing to remove evil from the Peninsula," a remark widely seen as a call against hereditary rulers in the Gulf region.

Saudi Arabia stripped Bin Laden of his citizenship in the mid-1990s, citing activities against the Royal family.

"We hurt for Muslims wherever they are, but everything should be put in focus and responsibilities should be defined," Prince Nayef said.

"Do not forget that those who abused your country are those sitting in their caves and holes and are sorrowfully associated with Islam and Islam stands aloft from them," he said in an apparent reference to Bin Laden and his followers.

"I tell those who are outside our homeland or within it, we will be secure, God willing," he said. **Reuters**

Judge: Tap frozen assets for victims of terror attacks

NEW YORK—A federal judge suggested Wednesday that some of the frozen assets of suspected terrorist organizations should go to the families of the victims of the 1998 bombings of two US embassies in Africa.

The suggestion came at a hearing for four followers of Osama bin Laden who will be sentenced on Thursday for their part in the bombings.

US District Judge Leonard Sand told defense attorneys he knew the four men could not afford to pay restitution. But he also said millions of dollars may be available, thanks to recent attempts by the Bush administration to choke off the funding of Bin Laden's al-Qaida network and other terror groups.

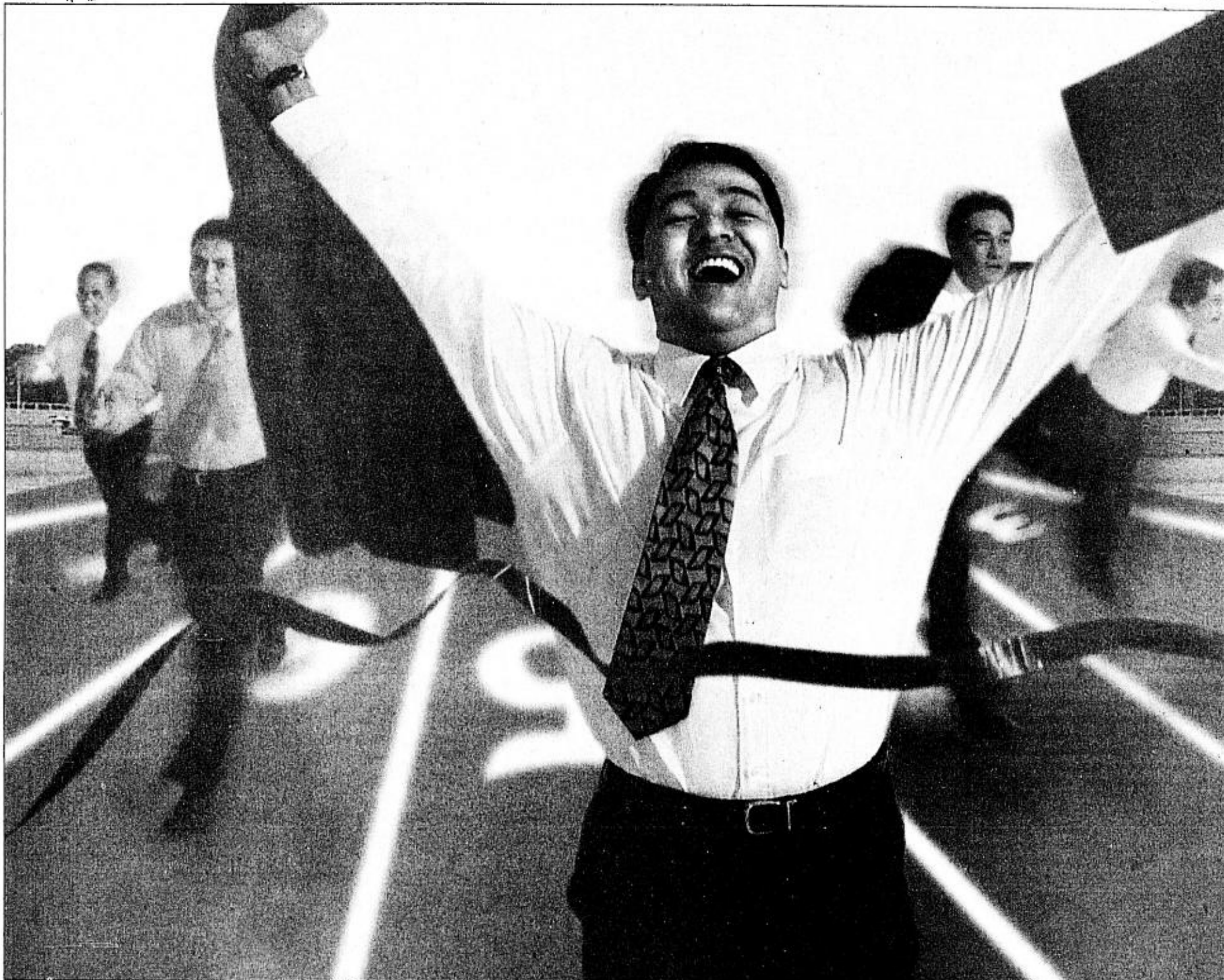
"We read on an almost daily basis of the holding or freezing of assets of organizations said to be co-conspirators," Sand said. The judge did not indicate how much money he thought the victims should receive, but warned: "I take the matter of restitution very seriously."

The nearly simultaneous bombings in Africa killed 231 people, including 12 Americans.

The four men were convicted of carrying out Bin Laden's 1998 edict to kill Americans wherever they are found.

Two of the defendants will receive life in prison. The other two could get up to life in prison.

Security is expected to be extraordinarily tight for the sentencing, which will take place just blocks from the ruins of the World Trade Center. **AP**



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Israel gives ultimatum to Arafat

JERUSALEM—Israel on Thursday demanded that the Palestinian Authority hand over the killers of a far-right Cabinet minister or suffer retribution akin to the US-led military strikes on Afghanistan.

Flexing its military muscle, Israel sent tanks and troops into Palestinian-ruled areas near Jenin and Ramallah before dawn on Thursday, halting on the outskirts of the West Bank cities. Gun battles later erupted near Jenin.

Cabinet secretary Gideon Saar said Israel would "act against the Palestinian Authority in the way currently accepted by the international community to act against a leadership that supports terror" if Palestinian President Yasser Arafat does not turn over Tourism Minister Rehavam Zeevi's killers.

Saar was referring to the US air strikes on Afghanistan's Taliban rulers, whom Washington accuses of harboring Saudi-born fugitive Osama bin Laden, its prime suspect behind suicide attacks against New York and Washington on Sept. 11.

Palestinian gunmen shot Zeevi in the head at a Jerusalem hotel early on Wednesday, leaving him lying in a pool of blood.

Zeevi—a 75-year-old former general who opposed interim Israeli-Palestinian peace agreements and advocated the "transfer" of Arabs from land claimed by Jews as their biblical birthright—will be

buried at a state funeral on Thursday.

His assassination set alarm bells ringing in Washington and Europe amid concern it could spark more fighting between Israel and the Palestinians and destroy a truce the United States hopes will cement Arab and Islamic support for its war on terror.

Israel's ultimatum did not include a deadline but was intended to increase international pressure on Arafat to crack down on militants and end an uprising against Israeli occupation that has raged for more than a year.

The Palestinian Authority condemned Zeevi's killing, the first Arab assassination of a member of Israel's government in the country's history. A senior official said Arafat had issued orders to find those behind the attack and arrest them.

"We reject all forms of political assassinations," Palestinian Cabinet minister Yasser Abed Rabbo said.

Days after US President George W. Bush praised Arafat for trying to end the violence, the White House said after Zeevi was shot that it was time for the Palestinian Authority "to take vigorous action against terrorists."

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon placed blame for the assassination upon Arafat, saying he "carried out and is carrying out acts of terrorism and never took steps against it".



SLAIN Israeli Tourism Minister Rehavam Zeevi (left) holds an Uzi as he speaks with a soldier in the West Bank city of Hebron in this undated file photo.

REUTERS

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India, Pakistan border troops exchange fire

SRINAGAR, India—Indian and Pakistani troops yesterday exchanged fire along their border in disputed Kashmir just hours after a visit to the region by US Secretary of State Colin Powell, defense sources said.

Tensions in the region were heightened on Monday when India launched artillery strikes on positions in the Pakistan-administered part of the territory.

The United States has urged both countries to exercise restraint, fearing conflict in the region could have a negative impact on its fight against global terrorism in the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks in the US.

But despite the pleas made personally to both Islamabad and New Delhi by Powell during a whirlwind regional tour, the latest bout of firing started late Wednesday.

The firing happened just hours after Powell left New Delhi bound for Shanghai and took place in the Akhnoor border sector of the Jammu region close to where Monday's strikes occurred.

"The heavy exchange of light machinegun fire started late Wednesday evening and is still continuing," a defense source said yesterday.

"Both sides are firing continuously with their light machine guns," he added.

The exchanges sparked panic among civilians in Akhnoor, although it was reported many residents had already fled their homes on Monday, fearing Pakistani retaliation.

India said it killed 11 Muslim militants in Monday's attack on Pakistani-held territory, which it said was a warning against Pakistan for arming and funding militants in Kashmir.

Pakistan said one woman was killed and 25 civilians injured in an act of "state-sponsored terrorism."

The firing broke weeks of relative peace across the disputed Himalayan border.

Powell had sought to cool tensions in the region, which could threaten to unravel the US coalition against terror, by trying to strike a balance between Pakistani and Indian demands on the issue.

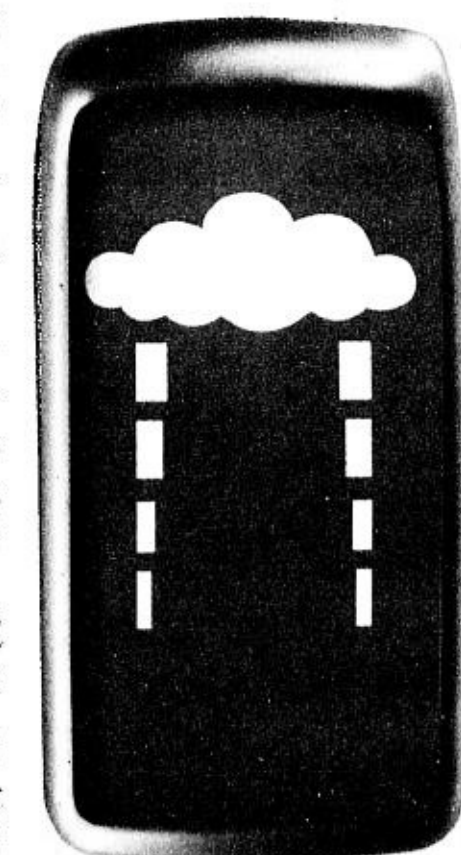
In a nod to Pakistan's stand, he said after talks in Islamabad and New Delhi that Kashmir was a "central" issue to ties between the two newly nuclear nations.

And in New Delhi, he said the US campaign was targeting all terrorism, including that directed at India.

AFP

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Finland displaces US as world's most competitive nation

GENEVA—Finland roared from sixth place last year to become the world's most competitive nation, knocking the United States out of the top spot, according to a survey released yesterday.

"This country's remarkable turnaround over the past decade serves as evidence of how quickly an economy's prospects can be transformed by strong political institutions, a focus on technology, and sound macroeconomic management," said the Global Competitiveness Report 2001.

The 352-page report, prepared by Harvard University Professors Jeffrey Sachs and Michael Porter and the World Economic Forum, is designed to forecast high rates of economic growth.

The report combines existing economic data of about 75 countries with the results of a survey of 4,600 business executives. The executives provide opinions about economic factors for which there is no reliable data—efficiency of government institutions, the strength of local supplier networks and the nature of competitive practices.

Singapore

Singapore, which topped the list for four years before falling to second last year, was ranked fourth, below Canada which moved up from sixth.

Australia jumped seven places to fifth. Other new entries to the top 10 were Norway, Taiwan, Sweden and New Zealand. Hong Kong, which held second place for two years until 1999, fell out of the top ten to 13th place.

Luxembourg, which ranked third in last year's survey, was left out of the list of 75 altogether this year. Peter Cornelius, director of the Forum's Global Competitiveness Program, said the authors had only received a handful of responses from executives about the country and so felt unable to include it.

The survey added 17 new countries to its survey this year, including the Baltic states, Nigeria, Bangladesh, Jamaica and Uruguay. Bottom of the list was Zimbabwe, just below, in order, Paraguay, Nicaragua and Nigeria.

Baltic states

The survey was mostly completed before the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the United States, but Cornelius said they would not have a big impact because the survey is studying the long-term outlook.

"When we examine the competitiveness of countries, we have in mind a timeframe of about five to eight years, and that period shouldn't really be affected so much," he said.

The progress of Finland in the report was not mirrored in a rival survey last April that used different methods and data. The rating produced by the International Institute for Management Development of Lausanne, Switzerland, placed the United States and Singapore in the top two positions. Finland was ranked third.

The two organizations previously collaborated on one report, but parted ways in 1995 in a dispute over research methods. AP

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Gas A/T	745,000	100,000	29,856	21,437
GLS Diesel M/T	725,000	100,000	29,049	20,858
Super Sport Diesel M/T	775,000	134,000	31,066	22,306
Super Sport Gas M/T	755,000	130,000	30,259	21,727
Gas A/T	795,000	138,000	31,873	22,886

*All Plans Subject to Bank Approval

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Model	SRP	50% D/P	36 mos.	60 mos.
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Diesel M/T	675,000	335,000	11,534	8,421
GLS Gas M/T	710,000	352,500	12,137	8,861
Gas A/T	745,000	370,000	12,739	9,301
GLS Diesel M/T	725,000	360,000	12,395	9,049
Super Sport Diesel M/T	775,000	385,000	13,256	9,678
Super Sport Gas M/T	755,000	375,000	12,911	9,426
Gas A/T	795,000	395,000	13,600	9,929



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Japan reports first case of human type of mad cow

TOKYO—Japan yesterday reported its first possible case of the human type of mad cow disease while it declared domestic beef safe to eat after launching nationwide testing of cattle.

About a month after Asia's first case of mad cow disease was confirmed at a dairy farm near Tokyo, the government launched testing of all beef cattle across the country for the deadly brain-wasting disease.

But a health ministry official confirmed that a teenage girl had been tested for the new variant of Creutzfeldt-Jakob (CJD) disease caused by mad cow disease.

There have been no confirmed cases in Japan of this variant of the disease, known as vCJD.

The girl, whose identity was withheld, was first treated at a suburban clinic in July and has been transferred to Tokyo University Hospital for further tests, said the official from the ministry's diseases control division.

"A doctor, not a CJD expert, who conducted the initial checkup, said her symptoms might not be those of the disease."

But she has since been checked at the university hospital at her own request, said the official, who asked not to be identified.

It could only be determined if a patient had contracted vCJD some six months after

he or she first developed suspected symptoms, the official said.

"She will be observed at the hospital for three more months by monitoring symptoms and taking tissue from her throat before things become clear," he said.

"It is not that we are concealing anything, but we are trying to protect her privacy," he added.

Despite the latest scare, the health minister, Chikara Sakaguchi, assured that any domestic beef put on the market would be "safe" because cows, which tested positive for mad cow disease would be barred.

"Only safe meat will be distributed in the market hereafter," the minister told a news conference.

The farming minister Tsutomu Takebe made a similar declaration in what was seen by critics as a political move to appease dairy farmers and meat-packers after a sharp decline in the nation's beef consumption.

Takebe on Wednesday said in a television interview that the government was planning to buy up to 13,000 tons of beef to halt price falls amid the mad cow disease scare.

The beef would be released onto the market when "consumers' trust is restored," he said.

In a nationwide campaign to stamp out the disease, some 1.3 million cows to be slaughtered in the coming year for human

consumption will undergo preliminary tests at 117 meat inspection centers.

If test results are positive, samples of the cows will be sent to designated national laboratories for final tests.

In the suspected vCJD case, the girl had shown symptoms similar to those of other patients, such as staggering, memory loss and dementia, press reports said.

CJD can be hereditary or contracted through transplants of dura mater, the fibrous membrane surrounding the brain and spinal cord.

It can also be contracted in sporadic outbreaks, which have no known causes, and then there is the new variation, believed to be contracted through contaminated beef.

The hospital ruled out the possibility of the first two types and, since the young patient does not show signs of special brain waves typically seen in the third type of CJD, it believes she might be suffering from the new variant, the reports said.

The first case of new variant CJD was confirmed in Britain in 1996. More than 100 people have since died of this type of disease in Britain.

The CJD patient is relatively young and she has never traveled overseas, according to the reports by the Kyodo news agency and the weekly magazine Bungei Shunju. AFP

Cambodia begins army demobilization

KAMPONG CHHNANG, Cambodia—Cambodia yesterday began the long-awaited demobilization of its bloated army in what officials say marks an important shift in focus from decades of war to development of the impoverished nation.

Some 400 soldiers formally became civilians in a ceremony some 75 km northwest of the capital. The group was the first batch to demobilize since the government's stalled plans were rejuvenated by an influx of millions of dollars from donors earlier this year.

They are the first of an estimated 15,000 soldiers the government hopes to return to civilian life by the end of the year. The

goal is to shed 31,500 soldiers by the end of 2002.

Prime Minister Hun Sen, who presided over the ceremony, said he wants to maintain a fighting force of between 70,000 and 80,000.

The premier said demobilization would allow the government to divert resources once allocated for the armed forces to improve infrastructure and bolster the struggling economy. Cambodia is among the world's poorest nations.

He also said more money would be freed for social spending such as health care and education, two areas where Cambodia ranks among the worst in Asia.

"Without it, we surely cannot expect

the government to improve the quality of basic public services, especially primary health care and education, to lift our people from the trap of poverty." Hun Sen told some 1,000 people gathered at an army barracks for the ceremony.

Cambodia's Army and Police consumed more than 50 percent of the state's expenditures annually though 1999.

A low intensity civil war with the remnants of the Khmer Rouge ended in 1998. The country had been in the throes of almost constant warfare since 1970, when the US-backed government began a war against the Khmer Rouge and their Vietnamese Communist allies. AP



TAKE TIME FOR FLOWERS AND BUTTERFLIES

A butterfly sits on a flower in the central plaza in Suchitoto, El Salvador, Oct. 17. Biologists of Mesoamerica are taking part in the Fifth Congress of the Society of Mesoamerica for Biology and Conservation.

Australian Carey wins Booker for second time

LONDON—Australian novelist Peter Carey on Wednesday landed the Booker, one of the world's most famous literary prizes, for the second time with the rousing tale of notorious outback gangster Ned Kelly.

Carey, 58, who first won the coveted accolade in 1988 with "Oscar and Lucinda," triumphed again with his "True History of the Kelly Gang" about the bank robber and police killer who is portrayed as Australia's Robin Hood.

He was only the second author in the 33-year history of the Booker to win the 21,000-pound (\$31,000) prize twice, after South African J.M. Coetzee.

"I am a little astonished to find my body swamped with adrenaline," he said. "It is like I am being run over by a truck and here it is happening all over again."

Carey now lives in New York, a city still grappling with the trauma of last month's kamikaze attacks on the World Trade Center.

Carey was born in Bacchus Marsh, Victoria, in February 1943. His father wanted him to follow him into the car business but he made a decision early on in his life to pen his way to success.

He first entered advertising, which helped him launch his career as a novelist in the 1970s. He is married and has two sons.

Despite his love of New York, he has always resisted setting his stories or factual works in anywhere other than the land of his birth, saying: "Australia is my subject. I've accepted that and feel it to be right."

Earlier this year, Queen Elizabeth welcomed him to Buckingham Palace in London as the winner of the 2001



CAREY with book

Commonwealth Writers' Prize for the Kelly novel.

He was a previous winner of the Commonwealth Writers' Prize in 1998 with his novel "Jack Maggs," but nearly did not appear at the palace.

The judges' selection regularly sparks a storm of protests with critics claiming obscure books win out over popular novels.

But the publicity always boosts sales for the winner whose book becomes an international bestseller overnight.

This is the sixth novel by Carey whose "Oscar and Lucinda" was made into a film starring Ralph Fiennes.

He is well used to being under the harsh Booker publicity spotlight as he was also shortlisted in 1985 with "Illywhacker."

This time he reveled in the spotlight of the literary big time and was fiercely proud of the recognition that his win garnered for Australian literature.

"Australians are really fortunate that they can have this feeling of being able to invent their country continually. It is very nice we can do that and it is wonderful there are so many stories in my country that we are all aware of but have not thought about that much."

The judges picked Carey after wading through 121 novels from Britain, Ireland and the Commonwealth with the Booker chair Kenneth Baker saying of the short list: "There is no doubt that some of these books will be read for years to come."

And he said of Carey's prizewinner: "It is a magnificent story of the early settler days in Australia expressed through the unforgettable voice of a vilified man who came to stand for more than he knew."

Also shortlisted for the Booker prize this year were Ian McEwan's "Atonement," "Oxygen" by Andrew Miller, "number9dream" by David Mitchell, "Hotel World" by Ali Smith and "The Dark Room" by Rachel Seiffert.

Novelist Dame Beryl Bainbridge, who had been shortlisted five times previously for the award but never won, did not reach the shortlist of six writers.

Reuters and AFP

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Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

PARANOIA SETS IN Anthrax scare hits provinces

DAVAO CITY—At least five residents hastily turned over letters postmarked Singapore as the anthrax scare continues to grip Mindanao.

The letters sent by a publication company, according to health officials, have been sent to Manila for examination.

Several residents here including bank employees received the letters, contained in white envelopes that also bear the crossed-out names of other popular persons such as Bill Gates.

Some of those who received it said it has powdery substance but health officials said they still would have to determine whether the danger is real.

In General Santos City, an employee of a multinational drug company sought the assistance of a reporter of a local ABS-CBN television station after receiving a letter marked "The Economist Newspaper Ltd., No. 8 Street, Republic of Singapore."

The employee said he did not open the mail for fear that it was laced with anthrax.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon told newsmen in Davao City yesterday that the health

department should issue statements amid the growing anthrax scare.

"Any immediate announcements (by DOH officials) stating that this is nothing, don't be bothered by it, could help allay the fears of the public," Biazon said.

He said the DOH should also take steps to properly inform the public about anthrax and its effects and how the public can effectively prevent it.

Biazon also shrugged off reports that the Philippines was a target of bioterrorism.

He said the country was not a high profile target as Japan and countries in Europe.

"But we could be targets of pranks," he said.

Alert

The anthrax scare continues as authorities in General Santos City were put on alert while 10,000 Muslims, considered fundamentalists, gathered for a three-day prayer and conference.

However, organizers of the event assured authorities that the gathering is purely religious and has no connection with previous calls made by some cler-

ics for a "jihad" in aid of Afghanistan.

Alimudin Hasan, one of the organizers, said that performing a Tableegh has become their annual duty.

Hasan said similar events were already held in various parts of the country and they have always been peaceful.

Those who attend the events are also known as Tableeghs. They usually preach Islam at its purest and spend most of their time praying or reciting verses of the Koran while holding prayer beads.

During the event itself, they exchange ideas about Islam in the tradition of the companions of Prophet Muhammad like Abu Bakr, Omar and Usman.

Army 601st Brigade commander Col. Pedrito Magsino told reporters here that although they have not received any threat from either the rebels or any terrorist groups, the military is not leaving security to chances.

He said tightened security is being enforced in the city especially in the light of the recent call for "jihad" by leading international terrorist Osama bin Laden.

Chief Supt. Manuel Raval, Central

Mindanao police director, has also directed his men to closely coordinate with the organizers and enhance police visibility in Barangay Fatima, about 12 kilometers from the downtown area here, where the event is being held.

In Baguio City, former Defense Secretary Eduardo Ermita, now the presidential adviser on the peace process, said he was scheduled to go to Mindanao yesterday to assure Muslims that they are not being singled out by the government in its campaign against terrorism.

"There is a need for us to band together for the Christians, Muslims and *lumdads* to harmonize," Ermita said during the Cordillera peace process consultation here on Wednesday.

Untrue

"Do not believe pronouncements of some groups that we are regarding the Muslims as the forces of evil. That is not true," Ermita stressed.

He said he would go to Mindanao before proceeding to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, for the start of the comprehensive peace talks with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. He will be joining government's chief peace negotiator

Jesus Dureza in the talks.

"I have to explain to the people what is the situation with the government and the international coalition against terrorism that the United States is leading," Ermita said.

"Whatever happens, the peace talks will proceed," he said.

Murad Ebrahim, MILF military affairs vice chair and chief negotiator, earlier said MILF "hardliners" are urging them to end the talks if the government does not stop violating the ceasefire agreement mutually set by the two parties.

Murad said the MILF has recorded at least 22 ceasefire violations made by the government between September and the first week of October.

"There is no program from our authorities to single out the Muslims," Ermita reiterated.

He also said Muslims in Metro Manila, Baguio City and other places in the country should not worry about being singled out in the government's anti-terrorism campaign. *Aquiles Zonia, Joel B. Escovilla, Anthony A. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau and Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

4 injured in refinery explosion

LIMAY, Bataan—Four men were hurt when the P25-million cooling system of the Petron Refining Corp. in Barangay Lamiao here exploded on Wednesday afternoon.

The blast forced the country's largest oil refinery to temporarily shut down its operations here.

Supt. Perfecto Palad, Bataan police director, identified the victims as Zander Diaz, 27; Hector Quicho, 23; Angelito San Pedro, 31; and Ernesto Pencil, 42.

Investigators said the explosion was caused by mechanical malfunction of the oil firm's chemical neutralization unit (CNU), which separates the phenol and naphthenic acid in the production of gasoline and diesel fuel.

The refinery's CNU was built in 1993. Police discounted sabotage in the explosion and said the accumulated volume of chemicals in the CNU was believed to have triggered the blast.

The explosion came amid fears of terrorist attacks in the Philippines in the wake of the US-led war on terrorism against Afghanistan's ruling Taliban regime and the al Qaeda terrorist network. *Greg Refracion, PDI Central Luzon Desk with Reuters report*

Terrorist, terrorism start war of words in Iloilo City

BY MA. DIOSA LABISTE
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Peace advocates here have cautioned against the use of words "terrorist" and "terrorism" that have become commonplace in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States.

In a forum held Monday, two professors from the University of the Philippines in the Visayas (UPV) said "terrorist" and "terrorism" are loaded words and social scientists have been debating whether it is ethical and proper to use them.

"It is hard to define what is terrorism or being a terrorist means. What kind of acts should be categorized as terrorism? Somebody else's terrorist may be a freedom fighter to another," said Titoria, professor of history at the UPV.

Tomas Talledo, who teaches political science at the UPV, said that if the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States is terrorism because it used force against unarmed civilians, why shouldn't the US air strikes in Afghanistan, which also killed innocent civilians, be termed as terrorism.

Terrorism is loosely defined as organized acts of terror and murder committed against civilians.

Leaders of the newly formed Justice Not War Coalition here have no problem calling the Sept. 11 attacks in the US as acts of terrorism. But because the word was contentious, they also called the US bombardment in Afghanistan terrorism as well.

In a picket staged before the consular office of the Department of Foreign Affairs here, some 30 protesters, donning skull masks and carrying anti-war banners, demanded an end to the military attacks in Afghanistan. Some protesters called for justice for victims of the Sept. 11 attacks in New York and Pentagon and the airline crash in Pennsylvania.

Talledo blamed American media for the double standard in using the word. "I am not against the use of terrorism but it should be qualified and circumscribed," he said.

Human rights groups here recalled that underground revolutionary groups were called "communist-terrorists or dissident-terrorists" by the military since the martial law years in the Philippines.

Ely Garachico, human rights activist, said that the term has been avoided by many human rights advocates and journalists alike in favor of less loaded words like insurgents, guerrillas and revolutionaries, among others.

MILF won't take part in Bin Laden's 'jihad'

COTABATO CITY—The Moro Islamic Liberation Front, a separatist group that is negotiating peace with the government, has reiterated its "non-committal" stand on any terrorist activity by fugitive Osama bin Laden.

The Saudi-born terrorist leader, wanted for US embassy bombings and lately a prime suspect in the suicidal plane attacks on the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington DC, is now the object of a worldwide hunt by the armed forces of democratic states.

"The MILF vowed to remain steadfast to its commitment not to support Bin Laden's terrorist acts," said MILF spokesperson Eid kabalu.

He added that they do not support Bin Laden's call for other Muslims in the world to launch a large-scale "jihad" against the US and its allies.

The MILF is preoccupied with the

resumption of the peace negotiation with the government in Kuala Lumpur, Kabulu said.

He said supporting Bin Laden would mean involving the MILF in a war that is contrary to its ongoing peace efforts with the Macapagal administration.

He said the government's technical group submitted a proposed "manual" for a ceasefire monitoring team and a set of implementing guidelines on security concerns as provided for in the Tripoli agreement.

The MILF has a counter-proposal contained in two position papers, said Kabalu. He declined to elaborate.

"I cannot at the moment reveal the substance (of the MILF counter-proposal) because I might be preempting the outcome of the negotiation."

"But certainly, it will rebound to peace in Mindanao," Kabalu said. *Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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Oct. 20, 23 & 26, 2001	W-T-F 6:00PM-9:00PM
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Oct. 22 - Nov. 5, 2001	M-W-F 6:00PM-8:00PM
HOW TO DELEGATE WORK AND ENSURE IT'S DONE RIGHT	
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TRAINING PEOPLE ON PROPER TELEPHONE BEHAVIOR	
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1,000 to lose jobs in Zambo Sur

PAGADIAN CITY—It would be a black Christmas for some 1,000 capitol workers of Zamboanga del Sur, as they would become jobless a few days from now.

Gov. Aurora Cerilles said she was determined to re-organize the staffing pattern of the province's government, which included laying off employees to trim down the bureaucracy and save on expenses.

However, the affected workers, most of them regular employees and have served the government for more than 20 years, vowed to oppose the move.

They suspected that the impending reorganization is politically driven.

To press Cerilles to abandon the plan, hundreds of capitol workers here staged at least two rallies this week, where they also said prayers.

The employees also sent a letter to President Macapagal-Arroyo, a copy of which was obtained by the INQUIRER, seeking her help.

In the letter, signed by some 500 individuals, the employees reminded the President about her pledge to fight poverty by creating more jobs.

Provincial Board Member Andres Nacilla earlier filed a resolution calling for reconsideration on the planned reorganization but to no avail. Nacilla said the reorganization plan was "hastily done."

Zamboanga del Sur Rep. Felomina San Juan said he believed suspicions that the reorganization was politically motivated act. *Hernan P. de la Cruz, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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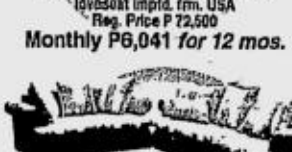
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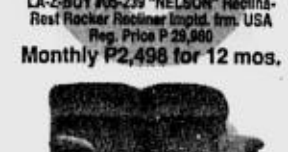
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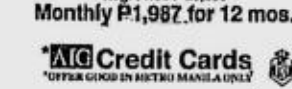
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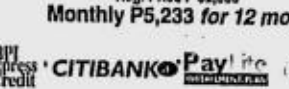
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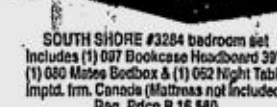
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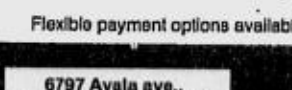
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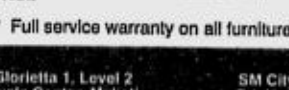
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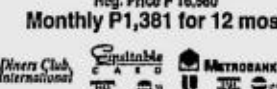
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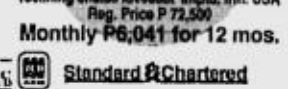
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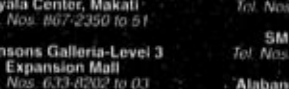
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Davao electricity firm ordered to refund P300M

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DAVAO CITY—The Court of Appeals has ordered the Aboitiz-owned Davao Light and Power Company (DLPC) to return some P300 million to its more than 100,000 customers.

The amount, the court said, came from its "excessive collection of electric rates" from 1984 to 1989.

The order, dated Sept. 27, also nullified an earlier order issued by the Energy Regulatory Board that limited the computation of the refund to only 11 months.

Associate justices Eliezer delos Santos, Godardo Jacinto and Bernardo Abesamis of the CA's former 9th Division, sustained an earlier decision compelling the DLPC to issue a full refund, saying that "no new arguments were raised by (the) DLPC in its motion for reconsideration."

"A refund of the electric rates in excess (of what was supposed to be collected) during this period can no longer be delayed," the resolution stated.

The appellate court ruled that the "continuing serious injustice (done) to more than 100,000 electric power consumers in Davao from 1984 to 1989 can hardly be doubted."

The case against the DLPC was first filed on Dec. 7, 1990 by businessman Antonio Diaz and Francisco Tesorero, who said that the power company was overcharging its consumers.

The DLPC, they said, was raking in more than the 12 percent profit limit allowed electric and power utilities.

The petition for refund was granted by the ERB and affirmed by the Appellate Court's former 5th Division on Oct. 22, 1992.

On May 5, 1997, Diaz and Tesorero filed a mo-

tion for computation of the refund before the ERB.

They also asked the ERB to order the DLPC to submit books of accounts for the computation but the energy body claimed that it was not necessary anymore for the DLPC to submit the documents to the board.

The ERB made the decision after it earlier issued an order dated Feb. 26, 1998 for the DLPC to submit its books of accounts from Jan. 19, 1984 to Sept. 18, 1989.

The ERB instead requested the Commission on Audit to look into the DLPC's books of account and other records for the computation of the refund, which covers the period of Jan. 19, 1984 to Dec. 14, 1984.

However, Diaz and Tesorero insisted that the COA should make an audit of DLPC's records for five years from Jan. 19, 1984 to Sept. 18, 1989 and not only for 11 months.

The petition for reconsideration was denied by the ERB for lack of merit on Oct. 4, 1998 prompting the two petitioners to bring the issue before the appellate court.

Most electricity suppliers pass on various charges to their consumers.

Losses incurred as a result of power pilferage are also passed on to consumers in the form of additional rates.

Aside from passing on losses from power pilferage, the electricity firms also charge consumers losses they incur as a result of peso-dollar rate fluctuations.

Joel B. Escovilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Court throws out case vs 8 charged with scion's slay

BY VICENTE S. LABRO
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—A regional trial court based in Carigara, Leyte, has dismissed the murder cases filed against eight suspects in last year's ambush-slaying of a scion of a landed family in Kananga town who is said to be a close friend of Ilocos Rep. Imee Marcos.

Judge Crisostomo Garrido of the RTC Branch 13 dismissed the multiple murder and frustrated murder cases against Matriano Sabinat, Enrique Cabalhin, Demosthenes Delantar, Wilfredo Uyico and four unidentified suspects after private prosecutors failed to oppose a motion to quash the cases filed by defense lawyers.

In his Oct. 12 order, Judge Garrido directed the jail warden of the Carigara sub-provincial jail to release Sabinat and Cabalhin, who were the only ones arrested among the eight accused.

The eight suspects shot dead 27-year-old Celzar Bendigo on Oct. 19, 2000 in Barangay Wague, Leyte town. Bendigo's bodyguards, Benjie Go and a certain Jun, were also killed in the ambush.

The Bendigo family had filed a multiple murder and frustrated murder cases against the eight accused.

But Sabinat and Cabalhin filed a motion to quash their cases because there was no sufficient evidence against them.

The court furnished the complainants' counsel, lawyers Leo Giron and Honrado Hermosissima, copies of a motion to quash filed by the two accused.

But the two lawyers failed to file an opposition to the motion to quash until it was heard on Oct. 12.

As a result, the motion was granted.

"Their (Giron's and Hermosissima's) failure to do so is deemed a waiver on their part," said Garrido in his one-page order.

Bendigo and their companions were on his way to his farm on board a Toyota pick-up when they were fired upon by heavily armed men.

Bendigo and his bodyguards died on the spot while their remaining companion, Robert Matonog, survived the attack although he was hit in the leg and twice in the back.

Responding policemen recovered from the scene spent bullets of M-14 rifles, cal. 45 pistols, an M203 grenade launcher.

Prank calls alarm Baguio policemen

BAGUIO CITY—Two separate telephone calls from anonymous callers on Wednesday night alerted a fast-food outlet in downtown Baguio about a bomb, forcing police to stop traffic along the busy Session Road intersection for almost half an hour.

Senior Supt. Alexander Pumecha, deputy city police director, said the threat could open the floodgates for more prank calls.

He said police have been on red alert since Sept. 11, after Baguio was listed among key cities like Davao and Cebu, which are "speculative targets of terrorism," according to a joint police and military intelligence advisory.

But Pumecha noted that the bomb threat did not fuel any panic inside the Jollibee fast-food center nor in the Prime Hotel building where the outlet is located.

Maribelle Tagulao, a Jollibee crew member, said she ignored the first phone call at 5 p.m. that day.

"I was scolded for not advising my superiors. I received a call from a young adult, who sounded like a 21-year-old. He asked me first if this was the Jollibee outlet on Session, then he blurted out, 'Hala! Sasabog kayo diyan (You're about to experience an explosion),' " Tagulao said.

She said she ignored the call because of "giggles" she heard from the background.

The second call, made to a Jollibee hotline dedicated to delivery orders, was made by the same caller at 7:30 p.m. Tagulao said the same voice, now more serious, warned her again that a bomb was to explode at 8 p.m.

She alerted the Jollibee managers, who immediately advised police.

Their customers were allowed to leave the fast-food place quietly, minutes before the police bomb experts and hotel security personnel began scouring through the building.

"No one was panicking because (these bomb threats) have happened before. So we are just told to be more prudent, and to react even if the threats sound like pranks," another crew member said in Filipino.

The last bomb threat, which police attributed to a prankster, occurred last year at the Baguio Center Mall at the height of a military campaign in Central Mindanao against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

Vincent Cabeza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas and Mindanao including Palawan will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.
SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 24°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	HI 25° Lo 14°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 21°
Laag	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 24°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 23°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 21°
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 26°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 23°
Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 26°
Roxas	Cloudy with Rains	HI 33° Lo 24°
Cebu	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 25°
Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains	HI 33° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 23°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains	HI 34° Lo 24°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 24°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/10/19/01

ROUNDUP

Fetuses found

BATANGAS CITY—Police here are looking for at least two women believed to have given birth to two fetuses which were thrown in a dump in Barangay San Jose Sico, Supt. Restito Hernandez, city police chief, said. Early Sunday morning scavengers were shocked to find a bottle with two fetuses inside. Hernandez said the scavengers who refused to be identified immediately reported their find to barangay officials who called up the police. *Mei Magsino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Cops in hot water

SORSOGON CITY—The provincial board here has sought the relief of local police officials for their alleged failure to curb jueteng, illegal cockfighting, and prevent crimes here. In a resolution passed Monday, the board asked Interior Secretary Jose Lina and Philippine National Police Director General Leandro Mendoza to immediately relieve Supt. Roque Ramirez as PNP provincial director and all the chiefs of police in the province. When asked for his reaction, Ramirez said he would not answer the resolution. "I'm leaving anyway," Ramirez told the INQUIRER. *Emir E. Gamis, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Ibalong fest

AMATEUR and professional photographers will converge for three days in Legazpi City for the Ibalong Festival. The Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation Inc. (FPP) organized the on-the-spot photo contests from Oct. 20 to 22 for two contests: one covering the Ibalong Festival and the other, tourist spots. Prizes for the Ibalong are 1st, P15,000 and trophy, while for the tourist spots, P10,000 and a trophy. Interested parties can visit the FPPF at the 7/F, Comfoods Bldg., Buendia Ave. cor. Pasong Tamo Ave., Makati City or call 843-5341 and 813-7420.

Billiards alarm teachers

LUCENA CITY—Concerned parents and teachers here have assailed the proliferation of billiard halls and computer centers in the city, which, they fear, are becoming dens of alcoholism and drug addiction. City councilor Leslie Roxas, games and amusement committee chair, noted the growing need to regulate the operation of billiard halls as they also serve liquor even to students during class hours. Norman Abilaña, Sacred Heart College PTA president, also voiced out a need to regulate the operation of computer centers near schools. Students have been turned into addicts of computer games, he said. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Headless body returned

GUINOBATAN, Albay—A headless body of a man run over by a Manila-bound passenger bus in Ligao City was mistakenly claimed by a woman as her husband's. The corpse was, however, returned by the claimant's relatives to the Ligao City police on the seventh day of his wake, a day before the scheduled interment, after her husband surfaced alive. Police records showed that an elderly man was run over by a passenger bus on the national highway in neighboring Ligao City on Sept. 30. His head was smashed by the bus' front tire.

Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

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DEATH THREAT

Witness in PNP drug gang seeks gov't shelter

BY CARLA P. GOMEZ
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—The lawyer of former Narcotics Command spy Remus Garganera, a native of Negros Occidental, is asking President Macapagal-Arroyo to fast-track the approval of her client's application to be placed under the Witness Protection Program (WPP).

Lawyer Jocelle Batapa said

Garganera fears for his life although he is now in the custody of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

She said the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group of the Philippine National Police was documenting the testimony of Garganera.

Garganera earlier executed an affidavit that he submitted to the Senate. Garganera's sworn statement, she added, would be used in the charges

to be filed against top ranking police officers allegedly involved in criminal activities.

"As his counsel, I may advise him not to continue making sworn statements despite his great desire to pin down the culprits due to the absence of official witness protection and immunity," Batapa said.

She said President Macapagal-Arroyo should now intervene in Garganera's application for coverage

under the witness protection program so that he can continue with his testimony.

"We cannot encourage more people to come out and bring to light what they know if they see that our WPP (Witness Protection Program) is a failure or (is) ridden with bureaucratic hitches," said Batapa.

Col. Victor Corpus, Isapf chief, presented Garganera during a joint Senate inquiry on Oct. 5 to testify on

the alleged criminal activities of Chief Supt. Reynaldo Acop, Supt. John Campus and other police officials.

Garganera had implicated Acop, Campos and other police officers in the alleged kidnapping and killing of suspected drug lords and the recycling of shabu.

Campos used to be the handler of Garganera who had worked as an agent of the Narcom then headed by Acop.

"Very credibly, my client can establish the chain of recycling of billions (of pesos) worth of shabu up to the provincial level, especially in Negros Occidental and Bacolod City," said Batapa.

But she said her client wants the release of a memorandum of agreement which will certify that he and his family are officially under the witness protection program to ensure Garganera's and his family's protection.

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Ilocos town no stranger to anthrax

BY LEONCIO BALBIN JR.
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

NAGBUKEL, Ilocos Sur—Residents of this town are no strangers to anthrax.

Two years ago, they feasted on the meat of a carabao that died mysteriously.

The men who butchered the animal, those who prepared its meat and those who ate it suffered from skin lesions as the meat was later found positive for the anthrax bacteria.

It has been two years since the anthrax outbreak hit Nagbukel, but residents in this town, 382 kilometers north of Metro Manila, said the experience continues to haunt them.

Dr. Mary Ann Soria, Nagbukel rural health officer, said they fear that the anthrax outbreak could recur, as the bacteria could remain active for 20 years.

"The anthrax could form resistant spores that can withstand harsh and extreme conditions," Soria told the INQUIRER. About 40 residents were infected by the anthrax bacteria in 1999, all of them from Barangay Casilagan in the boundary of Nagbukel and Narvacan towns.

Most of the anthrax infection victims were male aged one to 58 years and bore scars on their skin.

Residents and health officials in this town said the anthrax outbreak in Nagbukel started after a strong typhoon hit Ilocos Sur in August 1999.

Eden Impelido, Nagbukel agricultural technologist, said after the typhoon, a carabao owned by Santiago Cadano of Casilagan-Narvacan died mysteriously.

But its owner chose to butcher the animal and share its meat with his neighbors in Narvacan and Casilagan-Nagbukel.

This was followed by two more mysterious deaths of carabaos. The animals were again butchered and eaten by residents.

Only when a fourth carabao died of the mysterious illness that the residents reported the incidents to the municipal agriculture office.

Impelido took blood samples from the carcass and ordered that animals that died mysteriously should not be butchered but should be immediately buried.

"The blood from the dead carabao did not clot and was odorous," Impelido said.

Laboratory tests from the Department of Agriculture showed that the blood sample was positive of anthrax.

After the animal disease was detected, a massive vaccination drive among carabaos in the villages was done.

Reports said the men who butchered, ate and handled the infected meat suffered from skin itching until it developed into black wounds.

Those who ate uncooked meat (*kinilaw*) suffered abdominal pains and weakening.

Resident Franklin Caballeja, who was among those infected with anthrax in 1999, told the INQUIRER that after eating the raw carabao meat from the infected carcass, he felt that his body weakened and in two to three days, his left hand became sore and blisters later formed.

His left hand bore some scars.

A report submitted by the Department of Health's field epidemiology training pro-

gram to Mayor Amparo Ciubal identified the forms by which anthrax may be contracted—cutaneous (skin anthrax), gastrointestinal (intestinal anthrax) and pulmonary (inhalation anthrax).

Cutaneous anthrax is characterized by itchiness in an exposed area of the skin, followed by the appearance of lesions that in two to six days develop into blisters with a characteristic black necrotic (dying) area in the center.

It is transmitted by contact with tissues of animals dying of the disease.

Inhalation anthrax is transmitted by the inhalation of anthrax spores. If left untreated, it may result in death.

Intestinal anthrax is transmitted by eating contaminated meat. It is characterized by abdominal distress, fever and blood poisoning and may result in death.

Soria said the anthrax outbreak in Nagbukel was caused possibly by soil erosion and the presence of the bacteria in grazing areas.

She said the anthrax spore could be transmitted to the grass that could be transferred to carabaos that feed on these.

Soria said anthrax-affected animals should be cremated to ensure that the bacteria's spores are destroyed.

Sally Cabunoc, Nagbukel agriculturalist, said they are conducting annual anti-anthrax vaccinations to prevent the recurrence of the 1999 outbreak.

The Nagbukel municipal council also passed an ordinance prohibiting the butchering and selling of cattle in Casilagan.

Ciubal said after the 1999 outbreak, no animal was reported afflicted with anthrax and no resident had complained of anthrax symptoms.

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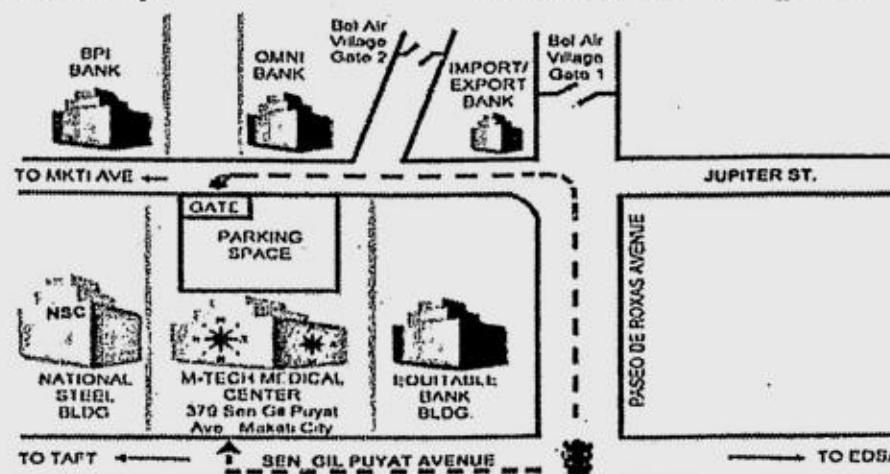
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*We are men and women of success but also men and women of VALUE
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Ex-MILF rebs eyed in priest's kidnap

(From page A1)

"There is no lost command in the MILF. We also do not have members who bear those names," Khabulu said.

Visayan speaking

Pierantoni was snatched inside a convent by at least 10 "Visayan-speaking" men armed with M-16 rifles and M-203 grenade launchers. "He was just taking off his *sotana* (vest) when three armed men with pistols barged into his room, handcuffed him and whisked him away, while seven other men armed with M-16s and M-203s escorted them toward the coastal area," said Supt. Samson Ubay-ubay, Dimatating police chief.

Bishop Zacarias Jimenez of the diocese of Pagadian City disclosed that the clergy had attempted to contact the leader of the kidnappers through an intermediary, but he did not answer.

Jimenez did not name the leader of the kidnap gang but said the group was operating in the Zamboanga provinces.

Jimenez also told the Catholic-run Notre Dame Broadcasting Corp. in Cotabato City that a man, who in-

troduced himself as Commander Ramsy, had offered to help in the recovery of Pierantoni.

"We don't know him (but) he's asking P3,000 as mobilization fund," the bishop said.

Belarmino said Ramsy was Norhan Amil of the MILF and that Amil's group could have pulled off Pierantoni's abduction. Burzawa, along with several residents, followed the trail of Pierantoni's kidnappers, who walked for about half a kilometer toward Sitio Tuka in Barangay Poblacion.

However, they were taken aback after the bandits fired several warning shots.

The kidnappers attempted to abduct a woman whom they saw along their escape route, but the woman managed to flee, according to Belarmino.

Belarmino, citing accounts from witnesses, said the kidnappers then boarded on two twin-engine motorized boats and sailed toward the Lanao area.

Mestizo

Florencio Cais Jr., member of a Catholic youth organization, said one of the kidnappers was seen at-

tending Mass weeks before Pierantoni was abducted.

Other residents said the man was a mestizo.

The residents said he was also seen in the company of another man. Both introduced themselves as traders.

The duo claimed that they wanted to buy *agar-agar* (carrageenan) from local producers.

The two suspects also asked several residents in Barangay Poblacion where they could rent a boarding house while in town.

The military said the mestizo-looking man could be Faizal Marohombas, leader of the Pentagon kidnap group, which is based in Central Mindanao.

The Pentagon group is still holding Zhang Zhongyi, a Chinese national who was kidnapped while trying to secure the release of his brother, who was abducted while on his way home to the site of an irrigation project in Carmen, Cotabato.

Authorities said they were trying to establish whether Amil had joined forces with Marohombas.

Search and Rescue

Cimatu said a search-and-rescue operation had been launched particularly in Lanao del Sur and areas in the

Zamboanga peninsula.

Task Force Joseph, headed by Brig. Gen. Angel Atatabo, is undertaking the search.

"I told them to conduct search-and-rescue operation within the shorelines of Zamboanga del Sur. I also asked Task Force Zamboanga to assist in scouring places where the kidnappers might have brought the victim," Cimatu told reporters.

He said Pierantoni could have been brought to Malabang, Lanao del Sur.

But Brig. Gen. Alfonso Dagudag, chief of the 4th Infantry Division based in Cagayan de Oro City, said a report indicated that Pierantoni could have been hidden in Sultan Gumander town, also in Lanao del Sur.

Sultan Gumander is less than an hour away from Dimatating by fast watercraft, the type used by the abductors.

In Camp Aguinaldo, Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva said the group that seized Pierantoni might hand over the priest to the Abu Sayyaf.

"They have links. Sometimes their members are related," he said in an ambush interview.

"They (had been) into this thing many times before and those kidnapped in Zamboanga would be given to the Lost Command. The victims would end up with the Abu Sayyaf in Basilan. This is routine," Villanueva said.

Dismay

Burzawa said Pierantoni's abduction could have been prevented had authorities acted soon.

The Polish priest said that as early as August, reports were already circulating that a foreign missionary was being targeted for abduction but that authorities did not do anything.

Burzawa said authorities were informed about the report, which was relayed to him by Dimatating Mayor Haniel Baya.

"We are puzzled and shocked because we have no idea why Fr. Giuseppe should be kidnapped," Bishop Jimenez said.

He said if the abductors would demand a ransom, the Catholic Church would reject it.

"They would not get any cent because the Church does not pay ransom."

Pierantoni's congregation, the Sacred Heart of Jesus, asked the kidnappers to release the Italian priest.

"We plead with those who have taken

him to please release him unharmed as quickly as possible," the congregation's superior, Fr. Jerry Sheehy, said in a statement.

"Father Beppe has never harmed anyone," Sheehy said, referring to Pierantoni by his nickname. "We ask you to look into your hearts and see if you find some speck of the greatness and mercy of the God that we believe in."

The MILF said it would help in securing the release of Pierantoni.

Khabulu said this was not the first time that the rebel group was involved in freeing hostages.

In 1999, the MILF facilitated the release of Italian missionary Luciano Benedetti, who was kidnapped in November 1998.

"We will do our share as part of confidence-building measures and to clear our organization from allegations we had a hand in this latest crime," Khabulu told the INQUIRER. With reports from Martin P. Marfil in Manila and Butch D. Enerio, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Kidnapping, killings of priests in South

June 4, 1986

French missionary Rev. Michel de Gligord kidnapped from his home inside the Mindanao State University campus in Marawi City. Kidnappers demanded \$15,000 ransom. He was released on June 25, 1986 unharmed. The military said no ransom was paid.

March 27, 1991

French Oblates missionary Fr. Yves Caroff of Brittany kidnapped outside Cotabato City. Kidnappers demanded ransom in cash and guns. He was freed on April 26. It was not clear if ransom was paid.

March 1993

Spanish priest Bernardo Blanco kidnapped by Muslim extremists in Basilan. Blanco, 65, escaped from his captors after 48 days in the jungle when his guards fell asleep. Earlier that year, Spanish Carmelite nuns Fatima Uribe and Julia Forester were kidnapped by Muslim rebels in Jolo. The two were freed after 19 days without ransom.

July 31, 1994

American priest Clarence William Bertelsman kidnapped by the Abu Sayyaf in Jolo, Sulu. Philippine Marines rescued him several hours later.

June 8, 1994

Caretarian priest Fr. Cirilo Nacorda and 58 others aboard a bus and two jeepneys taken hostage by the Abu Sayyaf in Maluso, Basilan. Nacorda was freed after 61 days.

Sept. 18, 1996

Fr. Ernesto Gordo Jr., 30, an Episcopal priest from Tagum, Davao del Norte, kidnapped in Upl, Maguindanao. His body was found in March 1997.

Oct. 27, 1997

Irish priest Msgr. Desmond Hartford, apostolic administrator and act-

ing bishop of the prelature of Marawi, and Fr. Phil Quibrana kidnapped in Kolabugan, Lanao del Norte. Kidnappers later freed Quibrana so he could relay to authorities their demand. Hartford was released on Nov. 8.

Nov. 18, 1997

Belgian missionary Fr. Bernard "Ben" Maes, 53, kidnapped on his way home from a farewell party for Father Hartford when four armed men took him at gun point in front of St. Mary's Church in Marawi City. Maes was held captive in Bobong, Roqueiro, Lanao del Sur. His abductors were believed to be former members of the MNLF. He was freed Nov. 20.

Sept. 8, 1998

Italian priest Luciano Benedetti and 12 Filipino companions kidnapped in Zamboanga del Norte. The Filipinos were later released unharmed. Benedetti was freed on Nov. 16, 1998. Reports said P7 million was paid as ransom.

March 20, 2000

Claret High School director and parish priest Fr. Roel Gallardo kidnapped by the Abu Sayyaf in Basilan along with 50 students and teachers. The military found his body on May 3 in Barangay Kumalarang in Lantawan town. His body bore signs of torture.

Dec. 28, 2000

Fr. Benjamin Inocencio, 42, killed on Holy Innocents' Day. The chancellor of the Vicariate of Jolo was shot dead by suspected Abu Sayyaf gunmen near the Jolo Cathedral.

Aug. 28, 2001

Irish priest Fr. Rufus Halley shot dead by kidnappers in Malabang, Lanao del Sur. Halley, a Columbian missionary in Malabang for 20 years, was shot in the head and died on the spot.

PDI Research

Fr. Beppe 'very ...

(From page A1)

said even Muslims found themselves very close with the motorcycle-riding priest, whom he described as a "work-horse" in the parish.

He was so well-loved by Muslims and Christians in Dimatating that several villagers even tried to prevent his abductors from taking him on Wednesday night.

But the priest pleaded with his flock not to do anything that might anger the gunmen. He asked them to pray instead for his safety.

Father Beppe, a native of Bologna, Italy, first came to the country in 1996 and was assigned, along with Sheehy, to Margosatubig, Zamboanga del Sur. He was later transferred to the Muslim-dominated town of Bacolod in Lanao del Norte.

He went back to Italy in 1997 and stayed there until his return to the Philippines in 1998. Since then, he has been serving as assistant parish priest of Dimatating. Polish priest Janusz Burgawa is the town's parish priest.

Jimenez said Pierantoni was "a very good listener, quiet and had no problems with the Muslims," who comprise 40 percent of the town's population.

Although he was not very outgoing, Father Beppe visited everyday the homes

of his parishioners from the Our Lady of Fatima Church to listen to their problems or just ask after their welfare, Sheehy said.

Dimatating residents said the soft-spoken Italian missionary loved to meditate and was alone most of the time. He could be very reserved, they said.

"But he is wacky when he is happy," Florencio Cais Jr., a member of a Catholic youth organization, said.

Sheehy said that as early as last month, the parish had received reports that one of the priests would be kidnapped, but the staff dismissed the threats.

"We never really acted on the rumors because we hear things like this all the time," Sheehy said. "We did not know that the rumors were true this time."

He dismissed speculations that the abductors were local residents, saying the people would not harm the parish priests.

"We feel safe with the people we're with. We always felt that they would look after us," Sheehy said. "It's definitely people from outside the community."

Father Beppe's family in Italy had been informed of the abduction yesterday morning and was "very, very worried" about his condition, according to Sheehy. With a report from Joselle Badilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Bush signals switch to ground assault

(From page A1)

ing under fire.

The United States and Britain launched their air campaign on Oct. 7 after the Taliban refused a final ultimatum by Bush to surrender Osama bin Laden, chief suspect in last month's terror attacks in the United States.

Pentagon officials have said the bombing was clearing the way for the offensive by the Taliban's opponents at Mazar-e-Sharif, the largest city of the north.

Still raging

The Taliban said heavy fighting was still raging. A Taliban information ministry official in Kabul, Abdul Hanan Himat, acknowledged that the Taliban had lost control of some areas around Mazar-e-Sharif, but he insisted the Islamic regime's forces had pushed the opposition back at one of the fronts around the city.

Opposition forces lost the stronghold to the Taliban in 1998, giving the Islamic regime control of 90 percent of Afghanistan. Retaking Mazar-e-Sharif would let the opposition consolidate vital supply routes along the borders with Tajikistan and Uzbekistan,

from which they obtain weapons.

In Washington, defense officials said US special forces units were now in place to join the battle on the ground, if called for.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, the officials said helicopter-borne special operations forces were put aboard the USS Kitty Hawk in the Indian Ocean several days ago—ready for any possible search-and-destroy missions against Bin Laden and his Taliban allies.

The officials stressed that did not necessarily mean that the troops were about to enter combat.

When the Kitty Hawk left its home port in Japan on Oct. 1, US officials said it left a portion of its air wing behind. They said this indicated that the carrier might be used as a base for special operations troops.

Volunteers

In neighboring Pakistan, a pro-Taliban Muslim leader said tens of thousands of young volunteers were ready to come to the Taliban's aid if US troops joined the fight.

"The day American troops land on the soil of Afghanistan, our

youths are fully trained, and their minds and their hearts are filled with the feelings of holy war," declared Maulana Samiul Haq, president of the Afghan Defense Council, a coalition of 35 pro-Taliban groups.

But US military radio broadcasts into Afghanistan by Air Force EC-130E Commando Solo aircraft are warning Taliban fighters that they will be destroyed not only by US bombs and missiles but also by American helicopters and ground troops.

"Our helicopters will rain fire down upon your camps before you detect them on radar," one message says in two of the local Afghan languages, according to transcripts provided by the Pentagon.

"Our bombs are so accurate we can drop them right through your windows. Our infantry is trained for any climate and terrain on earth. US soldiers fire with superior marksmanship and are armed with superior weapons," the message says.

Rear Adm. John Stufflebeem, deputy director of operations for the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, said Wednesday that the Taliban's air

defenses were now so weak.

With less concern about surface-to-air missiles, US pilots are being directed to areas where US war planners believe tanks and other mobile targets, as well as newly discovered fixed targets such as ammunition warehouses, are most likely to be found.

Appeals

With the fight escalating, international aid officials based in Pakistan appealed for a break in the bombing so relief groups can rush food to desperate Afghan civilians before winter snows close roads next month.

"Time's almost run out," Barbara Stocking of Oxfam International said.

A UN World Food Program official in Peshawar, Pakistan, said Thursday the Taliban had returned one of two commandeered wheat warehouses, together holding about half the agency's wheat stores in Afghanistan.

Stores in the returned warehouse in Kabul appeared intact, but there was no word of the captured warehouse in Kandahar, WFP official Michael Huggins said. AP

US anthrax cases hit 44; false alarms stoke panic

(From page A1)

packages or misleading the police will be prosecuted and may face imprisonment," said British Home Secretary David Blunkett.

The British government yesterday briefed more than 35,000 doctors and other health workers on how to prepare for terrorist attacks using biological agents such as bubonic plague, smallpox and botulism.

It was seen as a sign that the government now considered these a threat alongside anthrax, which has sparked a series of scares across the country.

In Washington, tests found that at least 31 people in the Hart Senate Office Building were exposed to anthrax on Monday when a powdery substance fell from a letter addressed to Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle.

Those exposed included mem-

bers of Daschle's personal staff, law officers, and aides to Sen. Russell Feingold, whose office adjoins Daschle's in the Hart building. Feingold said none of his aides who tested positive for exposure were in Daschle's office when the letter was opened.

No one of the 31 fell ill, although they are now taking antibiotics.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation said there were similarities between a contaminated letter sent to Daschle and another sent to NBC television anchor Tom Brokaw in New York. The envelopes bore similar handwriting and were each postmarked Trenton, New Jersey.

The strain of anthrax found in the threatening letter sent to NBC is the same as that identified in employees of a Florida tabloid publisher, CNN reported.

Robert Broadfoot of the Political and Economic Consultancy in Hong Kong said the scares could have profound consequences as repeated security alerts shut down businesses and transport links.

The Israeli parliament was evacuated Wednesday as public buildings in Germany, Sweden, Hungary, Northern Ireland, South Africa, New Zealand and beyond also suffered scares.

In San Salvador, authorities said a man showing what could be symptoms of anthrax was taken to a hospital. They said the man fell ill after opening a letter postmarked Miami and addressed to his boss.

An Austrian Airlines jet to New Delhi returned to Vienna so that the 256 passengers and crew could be tested for anthrax exposure after a passenger found some white powder in her seat.

"should be severely denounced and attacked."

• International conventions against terrorism and relevant UN Security Council resolutions must be "well carried out," and nations must stop activities in support of terrorism.

The Malaysians are proposing an international conference on terrorism, and Syed Hamid was quoted by the Malaysian news agency Bernama as saying that the idea was gaining support from others, including the Russians.

Syed Hamid said an anti-terrorism meeting would "serve as a long-term solution to the problem."

Many Muslims believe the Palestinian question must be resolved before terrorism can stop, and they blame US support of Israel for aggravating the matter.

Malaysian Trade Minister Rafidah Aziz said Wednesday that the US-led attacks on Afghanistan would not work.

She said leaders should work to discover "the root of the problem" and be careful with "whatever re-

taliation may be taken so that it doesn't harm innocent people."

Struggle

"We are not alone in this struggle," Bush told California business leaders Wednesday in Sacramento before embarking on a 13-hour flight across the Pacific to Shanghai.

"The terrorists attacked the World Trade Center, and we will defeat them by expanding and encouraging world trade," he said.

Aside from the commerce-focused agenda of Pacific Rim leaders gathered in China's largest city, Bush said he wanted to use the Apec summit to strengthen the international coalition behind his war on terrorists.

"The main thing that will be on my mind is to continue to rally the world against terrorists, to remind people that it happened to us, sure, but it could happen to them as well," he said.

The Chinese are already well aware, judging by the security in the streets and skies surrounding the summit, where some of the

meetings will be held inside the Jinmao Building, the world's third-tallest skyscraper.

Bush's first order of business in Shanghai, after some rest Thursday night, was a one-on-one meeting with Chinese President Jiang Zemin, who has offered to share counter-terrorism intelligence with the United States.

Bush, who has talked to Jiang at least twice by phone, said he was eager to let his Chinese counterpart "look me in the eye, take the measure of the American president."

He will also hold talks with Presidents Vladimir Putin of Russia and Kim Dae-jung of South Korea and Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi before returning to Washington on Monday.

The four-day trip overseas as Bush's first since the Sept. 11 attacks and the subsequent US-led air strikes on Afghanistan.

He left Washington on Wednesday, hours before anthrax exposure led to an unprecedented shutdown of the House of Repre-

sentatives.

Soul

"What we are seeing in Southeast Asia is a contest for the soul of Islam—between the tolerant, outward-looking Islam which has characterized the region and the more intolerant, fundamentalist influences," said Barry Desker, director of the Institute of Defense and Strategic Studies in Singapore.

While Apec's delving into politics has previously angered those who insist on sticking to dollars and cents, the Sept. 11 attacks struck at the heart of its mission of economic growth.

"It's a big Apec security concern," said Michael DeGolyer, a political scientist at Hong Kong Baptist University. "The attack on New York was an attack on economic development."

DeGolyer predicted that Apec leaders could find new ways to share intelligence. "Whether or not they publicize that is another question," he said. Reports from AP

Solons join outcry vs travel advisory

LEGISLATORS yesterday joined the executive branch in urging Japan to withdraw its advisory which they said lumps the Philippines with "radical Muslim countries" like Afghanistan.

Negros Occidental Rep. Apolinario Lozada Jr., chair of the House foreign relations committee, urged Tokyo to "seriously consider" the withdrawal of its advisory against the Philippines which he described as "unjust and deserves the strongest condemnation as it put the Christian-dominated Philippines in the league of Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq and other radical Muslim countries."

"For the information of those concerned, this country is not at war," Lozada said, stressing that Manila is helping in the global fight against terrorists.

In a statement, he assured that the country is peaceful and safe for foreign visitors like Japanese nationals.

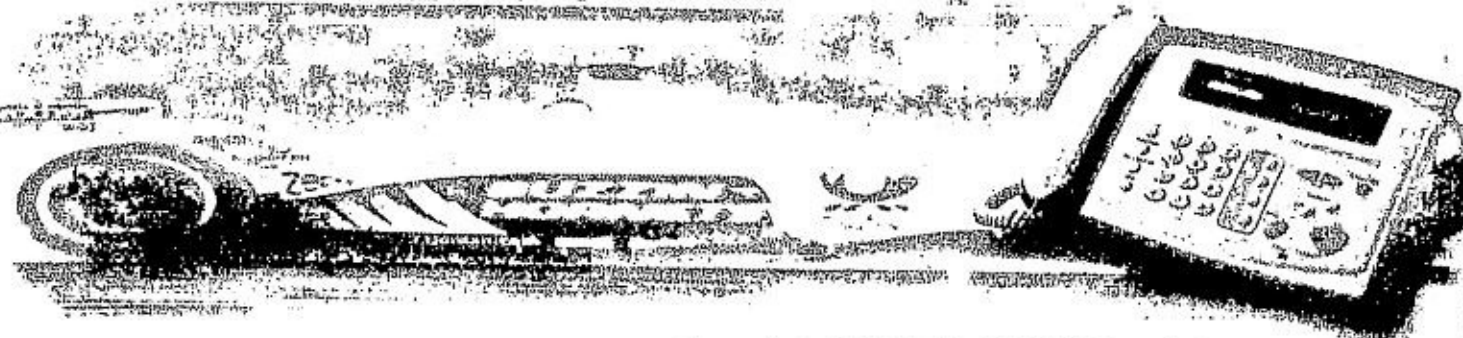
"There is no doubt that the ties between the Philippine and Japanese governments would be further strengthened once the controversial advisory is withdrawn," Lozada said.

Surigao del Norte Rep. Ace Barbers agreed that the advisory lumped the Philippines together with Afghanistan, something which he said, was cause for "serious" worry.

"If Japan's travel advisory to its citizens will not be rescinded, then the Philippines should bid sayonara to Japanese tourists, which number around 300,000 annually," Barbers said in a statement.

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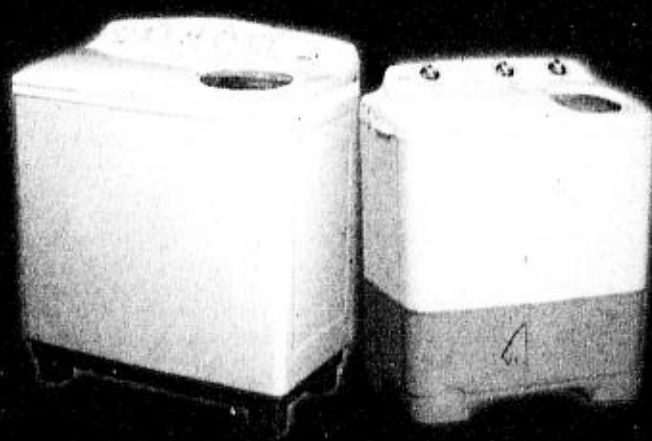
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POC-Acap talks today; GTK asked to mediate

BY MARC ANTHONY REYES

THE PHILIPPINE Olympic Committee executive board has set a meeting with the officers of the Athletes and Coaches Alliance of the Philippines today in an effort to defuse the impending protest rally the group is planning to stage next week.

POC executive board members Rene Adad of football and Benjie Ramos of rowing yesterday met with athletics chief Go Teng Kok to ask him to mediate between the POC and the Acap.

Go said the POC senior officials sought his advice on the brewing crisis, considering his affinity to the Acap members. They also discussed the internal squabbling in the different national sports associations like weightlifting, karatedo, cycling and tennis.

"I told them that I have no influence or whatsoever with Acap but I can help them reach out to them (Acap)," Go said. "I think any disagreement can be settled through a sincere meeting."

The group's head, Jaime Sebastian, earlier expressed interest in a dialogue where POC president Cito Dayrit

vowed to listen to its plight. Dayrit also promised to accompany Acap in their meeting with the Philippine Sports Commission officials.

Adad and Ramos also solicited Go's advice on the troubled NSAs which incidentally are all close to the Patafa (Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association) president.

They are considering holding summit meetings in each of the NSAs where everybody involved will have a chance to talk and discuss what ails their respective associations.

In the case of the Philippine Weightlifting Association, 22 weightlifting clubs in the country reportedly wanted to boot out president Rodones Sicut because of his failure to consult the general PWA membership regarding key decisions of the association.

Sicut fired vice president Graham Lim and head coach Sebastian last Sept. 29 but only informed them last Monday. Sebastian earlier claimed that PWA's policies are made by just three people.

Some officers and members of the weightlifting and cycling associations also pressed for the removal of sailing's Claudio Altura as head of the POC arbitration committee because of his "mis-handling" of the basketball fiasco last month.

X Games Manila debut tomorrow

ESPN's X Games makes its Manila debut starting tomorrow (Saturday) when the Asian Xtour Manila fires off at the Goldcrest Parking Center at the Gloria Macapagal Arroyo Mall at Makati.

Open to all Filipino action sports athletes and enthusiasts, the two-day event features competitions in skateboarding, bicycle stunt and aggressive in-line skating with the winners in two divisions (Junior X and Main X) gaining berths in the Asian X Games Qualifier IV presented by Toyota slated in January 2002 in Malaysia.

"The Asian Xtour and the Asian X Games Qualifier are the ultimate challenges in action sports because these are the only competitions which will qualify the athletes to ESPN's X Games in the USA," said Mark Reilly, vice president

of Global X Games.

The 2002 Summer X Games, which offers a total cash prize of \$100,000, will be held Aug. 12-25 in Philadelphia.

Eligible to participate in the Junior X division are those 14 years old or under as of March 1, 2001 while the Main X category is an open competition. Registration, which starts at 11 a.m. today (Friday), is true. Practice rounds will begin at 12 noon. All athletes must bring personal identification as proof of age.

The Manila event, sponsored by Toyota and supported by Toshiba and Polaroid, serves as the fifth leg of a six-stage Asian Xtour which kicked off in Shanghai last May. Bangkok hosted the second leg in June then Taipei in August and Kuala Lumpur last month. The final leg will be held in Singapore in December.

Forest Hills reaches Fed League finals

TEAM Forest Hills, only in its third year, barged into the finals of the Federation League Series by defeating Alabang in the semis and Manila Golf in the quarterfinals.

Despite the impressive wins, team Forest Hills remains the underdog to defending champion Wack Wack when they battle for the championship this weekend.

Team Forest Hills and Wack Wack met two times in the elimination round. Wack Wack beat Forest Hills, 2-5-1.5 away, and got a tie, 2-2, in their own turf.

Wack Wack ousted top-seed and fa-

vorite Manila Southwoods and Riviera in the playoffs.

"It will be a huge and tough challenge for us. It's like going through the eye of the needle," said team manager Vic de Guzman.

The team is composed of the late Alfie Almario, 2001 club champion Raffy Garcia, Jong Laput, Ronnie Littaua, Bobby Ysip, Ferdie Atendido, Larry Patnongon, Joey Ramoso, Celestino Lee, Vic Cordero, Alvin Buenaventura, Louie Rovero, Mario Baguna, Eding Hizon, Nonet Rodriguez, and Florene delos Santos. Gene Lim is the team captain.



ARAZI clinches his fist after defeating Agassi.

AP

Agassi booted out; Sampras prevails

STUTTGART, Germany—Andre Agassi lost an opportunity to reclaim the No. 1 ranking this week when he was upset by Hicham Arazzi in the second round Wednesday of the Stuttgart Masters Series.

Arazzi, a stylish left hander, beat the second-seeded Australian Open champion 7-6 (4), 7-5.

Following top-ranked Gustavo Kuerten's exit a day earlier, Agassi could have climbed back to the top by winning the event. He finished 1999 at No. 1.

"Unfortunately, you've got to win to be No. 1," Agassi said.

Instead, Agassi lost the opening match of his second tournament after the U.S. Open. That leaves U.S. Open champion Lleyton Hewitt as the only contender for No. 1. Now No. 3, Hewitt would go to the top by winning the title. He was idle Wednesday.

Pete Sampras, trying to win his first title in 15 months, beat Stefan Koubek 6-3, 7-6 (5) to reach the third round.

This was Sampras' first match since his loss in the US Open final to Hewitt five weeks ago. His last title came at Wimbledon in 2000, a stretch of 18 tournaments.

Agassi fought off a break point at 5-3 in the first set. He then had two set points, but Arazzi saved both, producing a backhand winner and superb pass-

ing shot. With Agassi facing another break point, Arazzi hit a forehand winner to the corner.

In the tiebreaker, a drop shot gave Arazzi two set points and Agassi sent a return long to drop the set.

Agassi saved one match point but Arazzi converted the second by hitting a return winner.

"He came up with some real good shots at the right time. Two set points, he hit two real incredible passing shots. He just executed his shots better when the game got close," Agassi said.

Capriati struggles

ZURICH, Switzerland—Jennifer Capriati's reign as World No. 1 began on an unconvincing note while Lindsay Davenport continued her imperious ways Wednesday as the two Americans advanced to the quarterfinals of the \$1.185 million Swisscom Challenge.

For Davenport, fresh off her triumph in Filderstadt last week, it was business as usual, the American firing a standard nine aces on way to dispatching South Africa's Amanda Coetzer 6-3, 6-4.

In contrast, playing in her first singles match since overtaking Martina Hingis for the top ranking, Capriati appeared lackluster, struggling to defeat 46th-ranked Russian wildcard Nadia Petrova 6-3, 3-6, 6-2.

Negros meets Laguna; Ecija vs Socsargen

BY ROY LUARCA

THE FEDEX Laguna Lakers have the height, the Negros Slashers the speed. Firepower-wise they are just even.

The homecourt factor, however, may yet spell the difference for the Slashers when they clash today in the MBA Second Phase at the USLS Gym in Bacolod City.

Struggling in the first two games at home, however, the Slashers must do better in the 5:30 p.m. encounter if they are to win over the Lakers, who were impressive in a 109-66 dumping of the Nueva Ecija Patriots last Friday.

The Slashers, who are hard to beat at USLS in the First Phase, yielded to the Cebuana Lhuillier Gems, 83-78, on Sept. 30 and blew a 20-point lead before besting the TPG Davao Eagles, 106-101, Wednesday night.

Knowing the tougher grind ahead, Negros coach Robert Sison opted to rest

Second Phase Standings

North	W	L
LBC Batangas	8	1
Andok's Sn Juan	6	1
FedEx Laguna	4	3
Nueva Ecija	2	5
South	W	L
Negros	6	1
Cebuana Lhuillier	3	5
Socsargen-Taguig	1	8
TPG Davao	0	6

Games Today

Tinga Gym, Taguig	3 p.m.—N. Ecija vs Socsargen-Taguig
USLS Gym, Bacolod	5:30 p.m.—FedEx Laguna vs Negros

Cid White and Dennis Madrid for the most part of their game against the Eagles.

White suffered a bruised heel bone on the right foot in the first quarter while Madrid experienced back pains in the second half.

Negros is pacing the Southern Conference with a 6-win, 1-loss slate, while FedEx Laguna lies at the middle of the Northern Conference at 4-3.

The Lakers are having an inconsistent campaign this conference, bowing to the upper-ranked teams while routing the lower-ranked squads like the Patriots.

Sison is expected to put White alongside John Ferriols and Reynel Hugnatan against FedEx Laguna's Jeffrey Flowers, Val Domingo and Chris Nicdao.

Nueva Ecija collides with Socsargen-Taguig in the 3 p.m. opener at the Tinga Gym in Taguig.

Yankees win opener; Braves level series

SEATTLE—Playing with the poise and patience that have become staples of their October success, the New York Yankees were charged up from the get-go.

And that meant real trouble for these Seattle Mariners.

Andy Pettitte pitched eight sharp innings, Paul O'Neill homered and the three-time defending World Series winners opened the AL championship series with a 4-2 victory Wednesday that was not nearly as close as the scoreboard showed.

"We're used to playing big games," O'Neill said. "We've got jitters and nerves like everybody else. But when we take the field, we've been successful."

The Mariners scored a run off Mariano Rivera in the ninth, bringing up Edgar Martinez as the tying run. But Rivera broke Martinez's bat on a game-ending groundout.

The Yankees, meanwhile, were ready from the first pitch—even before it.

While the Mariners were still in the

dugout preparing to take the field, Chuck Knoblauch and Derek Jeter already had sprung to the on-deck circle. Swinging their bats and studying Seattle starter Aaron Sele, they even nodded at each other, confident.

Meanwhile, Atlanta Braves rookie Marcus Giles set the tone of the National League Championship Series game here Wednesday by hitting the first pitch for a home run against the Arizona Diamondbacks pitcher Miguel Batista.

The Braves, perennial visitors to the National League playoffs over the past decade, went on to defeat the Diamondbacks 8-1 to level the best-of-seven series 1-1 and will return to Atlanta on a high for Game Three Friday (Saturday in Manila).

While Giles, 23, got the ball rolling, it was pitcher Tom Glavine, 35, who set up the win with a masterful seven inning performance.

He allowed just one run and five hits while the offense went on a hit parade off three Arizona relievers to score five runs in the devastating eighth inning and slammed the door shut on Arizona. AP

Junior tennis resumes

BOYS' 21-Under top seed Ronald Paz shoots for a semifinal berth against Carlo Reynoso at 2 p.m. today at the resumption of the Ad-In Phila Juniors Classic 5 tennis tournament at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

Other matches pit Ian de Guzman against Elbert Anasta Jr. and Art Thomas Calingasan against Noel Manalo.

De Guzman, ranked No. 1 in the 18-under class, takes on younger brother Irwin at 3 p.m. Also playing are No. 2 Joseph Arcilla against Allan Agulto, No. 3 Christian Cuarto against Gino Bautista

and No. 4 Garp Ulanday against Boris John Chavez.

Clashing in the girls' 16-under quarterfinals are No. 1 Bien Zoleta against No. 7 Vanessa Gutierrez, No. 2 Ivy de Castro against No. 8 Alyssa Labay and No. 4 Tracy Bautista against Marian Salvacion.

Seeing action in the boys' 14-under category are No. 2 Miguel Narvaez against No. 6 Beltran Maribojoc, No. 3 Kyle Dandan against No. 7 Bryan Dayleg and No. 4 Arimetrico Lim against No. 8 Pablo Olivarez.

Pasay stag tilt tonight

MORE than 60 exciting encounters will spice up the race for championship of Pasay City Cockpit's 4-star derby beginning at 7 tonight.

A cash prize of P300,000 is up for grabs in this event to be hosted by youthful cocker Butchey Olano, also known as junior *sabong* idol in the cock-fighting circuit.

Interested parties may contact 816-6750, 843-1890 and 843-1746 for details.

Meanwhile, the newly formed Pasay City Cockers Association (PCCA) will hold its first election of officers in a general meeting today at Cocktus Den starting at 2 p.m.

The PCCA will choose its board of directors (seven members), according to pit manager Eric dela Rosa. Also to be elected are the president, secretary and treasurer.

Army shines

IRIGIA CITY—Defending champion Philippine Army resumed its juggernaut Wednesday night, pushing eight of its campaigners into the next round of the 2001 National Juniors, Seniors and Women's Open Boxing Championships here.

Harry Tanamor and Violito Payla led the Armymen's surge with Tanamor hammering out an RSC-O win over Ernie Spsis of Kidapawan City 37 seconds into the second round of their light flyweight quarterfinals and Payla racing away with a 34-23 points win over Rene Villaluz of the Philippine Navy in the flyweight class.

Joining the two RP team mainstays into the next round were pinweight Dionisio Lonson, light fly Ernanie Desaville, flyweight Siegfried Dignos, bantamweights Glen Salazar and Noriel Lerio and lightweight Rogelio Plomeda.

Patrick bares cause of Silver Story loss

BY EDWIN VILLANUEVA

"WE were out to win that race."

Thus said businessman Patrick Uy as he revealed yesterday what caused Silver Story's surprise loss last Sunday in the Three-Year-Old Colts race of the Philoboo-Mitra Cup 2 festival at the San Lazaro Hippodrome.

Uy, belying reports that Silver Story was allowed to run despite being off form, said the grey galloper lost because

his left foreleg shoe cracked in the early part of the race.

"Hirap na siyang tumakbo nang masira yung sapatos niya," Uy told the INQUIRER.

"My horse is in very good condition when he ran last Sunday. Sino'ng may aring gustong magpatatalo when prestige and glory are at stake in that race?" he added.

Silver Story was gunning for history when he ran last Sunday because had he won, he would have become the first to

score a Juvenile Colts-Three-Year-Old Colts double in that prestigious racefest.

He also said that he welcomes the inquiry ordered by the Philracom but cautioned the racing body to "start the probe with its own people at the racetrack."

Uy was referring to veterinarians assigned to check and verify the soundness of every horse running in each race.

"My horse got injured because of that incident and that's what they found

out after the race when they said that he was limping in the foreleg," he explained. "It was very unfortunate."

Uy said he was willing to have his horse scratched from the said race "had the veterinarians found him unfit to run. Pero, wala naman silang findings eh."

Due to an earlier business commitment, Uy said he won't be able to attend today's Philracom inquiry but added he'll be represented by his trainer Ricardo Paman Jr.

"We don't have anything to hide. In fact, we were very much disappointed but that's racing. Even great horses lose and Silver Story's defeat proved that he can also be beaten," added Uy.

Paolo Mendoza's Batangas Entry eventually won the Three-Year-Old Colts race last Sunday.

Uy said Silver Story would resume training next week in preparation for the Marho Breeders' Cup in November.

L.A.

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza



Tuesday night, Arthur, an engineering graduate of the University of the East, is a supervisor of one of the companies operating at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport. Both Arthur and Illuminada are natives of Nasugbu, Batangas.

L.A. was a recruit from San Beda High. He studied at Don Bosco Makati for his elementary diploma, spent one year at Adamson then stayed the next three years at San Beda. He was born at the United Doctors Medical Center in Quezon City. One of three children, L.A. is sandwiched by a sister and a brother. His boyhood dream was to study at Ateneo. Using basketball as his bridge, he grabbed at the opportunity last year when Ateneo offered him a slot at the Blue Eagle lineup.

With his razzle-dazzle style of play, L.A. became an instant hit in the just-

ended UAAP season. What we saw on Tuesday was like a photocopy of Allen Iverson. Like Iverson, L.A. can also slash the lane, do the crossover with finesse and shoot threes with ease. Now, take this: L.A., God willing, will be with Ateneo for the next three, four, years. Can you imagine the havoc he could inflict on the opposition in the years to come?

Never mind that he missed his last underdog stab Tuesday and next lobbed a weak pass that got intercepted. That was the endgame already, the point when the game was beyond retrievable for Ateneo. He was dog-tired at that stage. Even superstars have their limits. When a cager's energy is sapped, the flick in his wrist withers just as fast, the chest-pass becomes like a bag of cement.

Still, L.A. won the hearts and minds of the 20,000 or so that packed the Cubao Big Dome on Tuesday. Even the most fanatic of La Salle's fans fell for him, swooned over him. If only for that, Ateneo's ill-fated campaign received some measure of success.

Sometimes, it takes only one person to lift the spirit of a fallen brigade.

Make that L.A.

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Gangway 2. Aya's Star 3. Sperecosta 4. Looks Like It
Race 2—1. Selectee 2. All Smiles
Race 3—1. Rain Check 2. Rock's Dragon 3. Filthy Rich 4. Little Red 5. Jackpot
Race 4—1. Speed Master 2. Hazme Lady 3. Spinning Bullet 4. El Robusto
Race 5—1. Heavy Metal 2. Bold Advance
Race 6—1. Ikaw Pag Asa Ko 2. Triple

Joy 3. Accommodating 4. Green Leaves 5. Standout
Race 7—1. Freshman 2. El Condor 3. Full Show 4. Time Street
Race 8—1. Iron Fist 2. Union City Boy 3. Two Thumbs Up 4. Baby Love 5. Manlaman
Race 9—1. Taskmania 2. Walang Hanggan/Redding Drive 3. Silver Print 4. Gugu'y Legacy 5. Noble Heart 6. Maximo

Batangas racing host

DEFENDING champion Jolet Jao of Shell Advance-YRS Racing Team tries to put the finishing touches to another successful campaign when the National Super Bike Championships 2001 comes to a fitting end this Sunday, Oct. 21, at the Batangas Racing Circuit in Rosario, Batangas.

Already assured of the overall title as early as last month, Jao seeks another back-to-back victories in the centerpiece expert open category to formally wrap up the overall championship in this annual 12-part series organized by the Batangas Racing Circuit Association (BRCA) and sanctioned by

the National Motorcycle Sports and Safety Association (Namsa).

"Winning the last two races of the season is just as important to me," said Jao, who can actually afford to skip the races this weekend and still win the overall title. "Pipilitin ko pa ring manalo uli alang-alang sa lahat ng aking mga tagasupporta ko."

The 35-year-old campaigner from Marikina, who uses only Shell Advance's racetrack-tested motorcycle oils in his brand-new Yamaha R6, has a 10-leg aggregate of 165 points, 52 points ahead of his closest rival.

Water polo 3-on-3 up

THE LAST leg of the 2001 Nestle Magnolia Non-Stop 3-on-3 water polo competitions will be tomorrow and Sunday at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex swimming pool with the Pro-APF, Navy and Anaconda disputing Class A honors. Philippine Christian University A and B and Valle Verde Country Club B, on the other hand, will contest the Class B championship in the event backed by Nestle-Magnolia and the Philippine Sports Commission.

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

SPORTS

ONTV
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(7-7 p.m.) on Star Sports

Golf Classics - The
Nearly Men at 6 p.m. on
ESPN
PGA National Car
Rental Classic, First
Round at 8 p.m. on Star
Sports
TENNIS: Masters Series
(Stuttgart), Early

Round Coverage Day #3
at 7 a.m. and 8 a.m. (7-
Early Round Coverage
Day #4 at 3 p.m. on Star
Sports
BASKETBALL: NBA
Inside Stuff at 7:30 p.m.
on Star Sports
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Owens case won't affect SLR-Black

STANDINGS	W	L
Sta. Lucia	7	1
Talk N Text	6	2
Shell	4	3
San Miguel	4	4
Ginebra	4	4
Pop Cola	4	5
Red Bull	3	4
Alaska	3	5
Purefoods	3	6
Tanduay	2	6

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS:
Alaska d. Purefoods, 108-102
Ginebra d. Pop Cola, 105-92

GAMES TODAY (Cuneta Astrodome)
5:05 p.m.—Tanduay vs Talk N Text
7:10 p.m.—Sta. Lucia vs Red Bull

BY JUNE NAVARRO

DAMIEN Owens, charged for beating up a young man inside a disco in Makati City the other day, won't let what Sta. Lucia coach Norman Black termed as a one-sided accusation ruin his day.

"Damien told me he was just protecting himself. But whatever happened out there won't affect our preparation for tomorrow's game," Black told the INQUIRER yesterday.

The Realtors clash with the Red Bull Thunder tonight right after second-running Talk N Text and Tanduay take the

floor at 5:05 p.m.

Black said team management would handle the case of Owens, who is now facing charges of physical injuries before the Makati City police.

But he added the battle against the Thunder poses a bigger problem as the Realtors shoot for their eighth win in nine outings.

For one, the Thunder are seeking revenge on the 96-77 setback inflicted by the Realtors a month ago. Another difficulty confronting the Realtors is the steady recovery of the Thunder after a faulty start.

On a roll, the Thunder won three of their

last four outings, the recent of which was a defense-oriented 68-62 win over Shell last Sunday in Antipolo City that fetched them a 3-4 win-loss record.

"We'll just have to make sure to run on defense because they (Thunder) are a running team," said Black, whose Realtors are coming off from a 97-91 victory over Purefoods on Saturday in Bago City.

That victory formalized the Realtors' entry into the quarterfinals and improved their record to 7-1, a slate that was tainted by the Phone Pals' 81-80 victory over Sta. Lucia two weeks ago.

After halting the Realtors' six-game run, the Phone Pals carried the momentum against Barangay Ginebra, whom they beat, 78-81, last Friday to firm up their hold of second place at 6-2.

The Phone Pals intend to continue their string of luck tonight against Tanduay, the league's latest occupant at the bottom of the standings at 2-6.



BLACK

Is Red Bull ready for Sta. Lucia?

IF THE atmosphere surrounding the ongoing PBA Governors' Cup is any indication, league-leading Sta. Lucia Realty (7-1) will be the prohibitive choice to beat struggling Batang Red Bull (3-4) when they tangle tonight at the Philsports Arena.

But a truly interesting set to is in the offing between the two teams, one coached by Norman Black, whose Realtors have yet to win a PBA championship since joining the league in 1993, and the other by Yeng Guiao, who piloted the Thunder to a smashing title triumph in the recent Commissioner's Cup in only five conferences.

This year, the score is even at 2-2 between them.

In their game during the season-opening All-Filipino last March 24 in Malolos, Bulacan, Red Bull, then needing only a victory to earn a twice-beat-advance, lost to already eliminated Sta. Lucia. However, the Thunder bounced back in their rematch on April 4 at Philsports by turning the tables on the Realtors.

In their first encounter in the Governors' Cup last Sept. 12 at Philsports, the Realtors toyed with the Thunder, who have become, to most everybody's surprise, a big letdown with their inconsistent brand

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo



of basketball which is sometimes hot, but oftentimes cold.

Have the Thunder lost their will to win, their intensity, their character? Even import Ray Tut, the team's scoring machine last year, has been performing below par this time, missing several shots unlike before when he waxed hot to steer newcomer Red Bull to third place in the Governors' Cup.

What went wrong? "It's really hard to tell what happened," said the 42-year-old Guiao. "Maybe we celebrated too long after winning the championship. But it's high time we pick up the pieces. We need to win more games."

Guiao is understandably wary. Expectations are high after Red Bull won the Commissioner's Cup. "The pressure is simply too great, pressure that could affect the

team's performance (as what is happening now). *Pag naging champion ka, iba na ang naging dating.* I know it because I have been in that situation before," said Guiao, who coached Swift Mighty Meaty to PBA championships in 1992 and 1993. "It's really up to the players to handle success. It's up to them to conquer their own fear."

In this year's Governors' Cup, Sta. Lucia, banking on newfound strength, is enjoying one of its best seasons ever since 1993. It is anchoring its aggressive campaign on prolific import Damien Owens and vastly improved locals Dennis Espino, Marlou Aquino, sharp-shooting Paolo Mendoza and dependable Christopher Tan, Richard del Rosario and Felix Belano. Ranged against them tonight, aside from Tut, are fearless Junthy Valenzuela, peppery Jimwell Torion, defensive gems Davonn Harp and Mick Pennisi, old reliable Ato Agustin, No. 1 draft pick Willie Miller and former NCAA Most Valuable Player Kerby Raymundo.

SPORTS TRIVIA. Ballroom dances originated chiefly from England and France. Waltz was a German peasant dance introduced in 1780.

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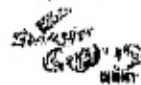


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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

A 25

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor



DOH: Anthrax has not reached RP

BY BLANCHE S. RIVERA, PHILIP C. TUBEZA, CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA, DONA PAZZIBUGAN AND ALCUIN PAPA

'Possibility even less than that of winning lotto twice'



DAYRIT

THE CHANCE of getting anthrax is like the chance of winning the lotto—one in a million. And the possibility of Filipinos receiving a letter with anthrax is less than the possibility of winning the lotto two times in a row.

This was how Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit yesterday described the risk of contracting anthrax, which has gripped the world following reported cases in the United States after the terrorist attacks on New York and Washington.

"It's just like the lotto," Dayrit explained. "Even if there's only one in a million chance of winning, Filipinos bet because there's still that one chance. You reverse the psychology: Even if there's only one in a billion chance of getting anthrax, there's still that one (chance)."

Dayrit also concluded that the anthrax bacteria have not reached the country as a bioterrorism weapon.

President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday tried to quell public panic and said health authorities are prepared to deal with any anthrax outbreak.

DOH: ANTHRAX/A26



'People should worry more about garbage'

BY JULIET L. JAVELLANA

METRO Manila is one big gas chamber and its inhabitants should worry more about pollution and garbage than anthrax, according to a congressman.

"Who needs to inhale anthrax when 16 Metro Manilans die every day from health complications caused by air pollution?" Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri (Lakas, Bukidnon) yesterday said in a statement.

The uncollected garbage and the dirty air in

PEOPLE SHOULD/A26



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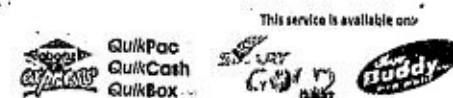
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Makati rich vs tax plan

BY ALCUIN PAPA

RESIDENTS of posh villages in Makati City are objecting to the city government's plan to increase real estate taxes.

In a letter sent to Makati officials last week, the presidents of homeowners associations of Forbes Park, Bel-Air, Dasmariñas, Magallanes, Urdaneta and Ecology villages sent their dissenting comments on draft Ordinances 2001-46 to 48.

The draft ordinances, authored by Vice Mayor Ernesto Mercado and members of the city council, seek to raise real estate taxes in the city.

Ordinance 2001-46 prescribes a revised schedule of fair market values of real properties while Ordinance 2001-47 seeks to change the assessment levels for residential, commercial and industrial lands. Or-

dinance 2001-48 will amend the existing tax rate from 1 percent to 1.5 percent based on the conversion of Makati from a municipality to a city.

While the ordinances have yet to be approved, residents have started to lobby against its passage, saying this would result in an increase of about 140 percent in realty taxes.

In a letter sent to the city council last week, the homeowners pointed out that prescribing a revised schedule of fair market values of properties is "not consistent with the actual reality where real estate values are depressed and the real market is down."

"Every resident of Makati, including real estate dealers, knows this since the financial crisis hit us in the latter part of 1997, and it's still true today," said the homeowners in a letter. "Setting an artificial price as a basis for taxation is unreasonable."

able."

They also objected to the raising of assessment levels from 10 percent to 20 percent for residential land, and from 30 percent to 50 percent for commercial/industrial lands, saying the increases were "excessive and confiscatory."

They stressed that the conversion of Makati to a city does not mean a commitment to raise taxes.

"Tax policy always considers two very important things: that it will not unduly result in a heavy and excessive tax burden and that the taxpayer must have the ability to pay," homeowners said.

A city hall official who requested anonymity told the *Inquirer* that the city council only wanted to pass one of the three controversial ordinances. The official explained that the increases would be used to fund projects of the local government.

He pointed out that what Ordi-

nance 2001-48 was seeking was not an increase in real estate taxes but an "adjustment." He said the increase should have been implemented in 1995 when Makati became a city, but was deferred because the funds were not needed at the time.

But lawyer Tommy Toledo, spokesperson for the village associations, said the passage of any one of the proposed ordinances would still mean an increase in real estate taxes.

He appealed to city officials to be "compassionate and flexible," adding that the implementation of the projects could be deferred.

"These are very good projects, there is no doubt about that," he said. "But maybe they could hold the projects if there is no money."

The two sides are set to meet again today in city hall to discuss their differences and to present their proposals and counter-proposals.

Lucky to have survived the fiberglass monster

(SCRABBLE SPECIAL: The recent Scrabble Friendship Games 2 of the National Amateur Scrabble Association of the Philippines (NASCAP) yielded the following winners: Senior level—Lydia Pullantes; intermediate level—Divino Buenagua; beginner level—Louie Mark de Guzman. They will defend their positions in the next playoff scheduled on Sunday at the Glorietta, Makati. Interested parties may call numbers 578-8612 or 0919-259-2702. ***

THE young man says he's 34 and has two kids. He considers himself very lucky. Unlike his co-workers, numbering close to 30 inside the dreaded fiberglass firm, he has not gotten ill.

Practically the entire staff of the Anesco Fiberglass Products Corp. in Mandaluyong City suffers from different sorts of respiratory ailments.

This was the same firm, owned by a certain Ernesto Yuyek, which the affected residents had threatened to either storm or barricade after poisonous emissions from its machines caused an outbreak of respiratory diseases, mostly among children, in the immediate community.

Heeding the pleas of enraged residents, Mandaluyong City Mayor Benhur Abalos ordered a halt to the operations of Anesco on Friday.

Then on Monday, Abalos followed up his earlier move and required the fiberglass firm to produce an environmental clearance certificate, an ECC, within 48 hours.

The residents, after having again breathed clean, healthful air for the first time in months, were overjoyed.

But shortly before the 48-hour ultimatum could lapse, Anesco, with no clearance to show, resumed full-blast operations on Wednesday morning.

There was a commotion. What followed was a series of screaming protests.

Civic leader Nandy Charvet, whose earlier calls to Mayor Abalos had led to the momentary halt in the damaging operations of Anesco, rushed to the scene.

Assessed of the blatant violation, Abalos immediately fired off orders. He sent a task force composed of his administrative officer and the city environmental supervisor.

An ocular inspection unearthed, among other things, a production chamber, the size of two schoolrooms, whose walls and ceiling were thickly enveloped in white ghostly dust. From this chamber, where the fiberglass products were being cooked, poisonous fumes and dust were fanned off by two giant blowers to the direction of the thickly populated area.

Trying to play it coy, the resident manager claimed they were not in operation.

The presence of the workers attending to their various tasks, however, readily belied the claim.

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad



The team that made the inspection, which included *Inquirer* photographer Dennis Sabangan, was singularly aghast at how the workers could've stood the lethal foulness inside the factory.

The stench of strong melting chemicals readily assailed the nose, immediately sending a sharp, harmful tug at the lungs.

The ready instinct was for the visitor to move out, fast, to escape the injurious fumes.

The visit could've been a preview of a death chamber; although it was slow, often invisible, death they were cooking up inside the Anesco compound.

As soon as the ocular inspection was through, a police mobile unit arrived bearing the secretary of Mayor Abalos who delivered a newly penned cease and desist order.

Abalos noted that Anesco, in the first place, has no environmental clearance certificate. The mounting complaints included the testimony of a lady neighborhood doctor who swore to the outbreak of respiratory ailments starting with the full-blast operations at Anesco. With no ECC, and with the mounting complaints, the firm has no official business to function.

Well, to make the long story short, your reporter here survived that harrowing visit.

Of course, we will never be able to know the exact damage and how much poison I had ingested.

I had thought of calling in sick Wednesday. But I tried and luckily made it to the office to finish the chore.

Yesterday, I woke suffering from a shortness of breath.

I next called up Nandy Charvet who said he has been similarly affected. He suffered from chest congestion and has been sluggish since he emerged from the ocular inspection.

Dennis Sabangan said he was forced to take a forced rest after the Anesco assignment as he felt giddy after that lengthy stay in the enclosed factory.

Back to the young father of two who considered himself lucky for not having gotten seriously ill despite constant exposure to the poisonous dust and fumes inside the Anesco compound.

I bumped into the guy yesterday. He said he was aware that he has been constantly risking his health working in the dreaded fiberglass factory. He said he had to take lots of medication, mostly vitamins, in order to avoid falling ill.

But why do you have to continue working there, I asked him.

No choice, he reasoned, *wala namang ibang trabaho*.

He explained he could not stand seeing his kids go hungry.

It was the cruelest of deals. He had to breathe in and swallow death, all readily available at Anesco, in order to live.

Forbes kidnappers wore 'barong,' cops say

BY ALCUIN PAPA

MEN in barong tagalog were behind the aborted abduction of a businesswoman in Forbes Park on Wednesday morning, according to the Makati police.

Supt. Jose Ramon Salido, chief of the Makati Police Criminal Investigation Division, said his men have come up with composite sketches of the suspects and are now hunt-

ing them down for trying to kidnap Justa Lee, 70, at the exit gate of the Santuario de San Antonio Parish in Forbes Park.

Salido said the police sketches were partly based on witnesses' testimonies.

Lee, a resident of South Forbes Park and a dealer of Volvo and Mercedes luxury cars, had gone to church to offer flowers for her deceased husband whose ashes were

buried in the parish grounds, police said.

At 8:45 a.m., Lee was about to board her Nissan car when the five men, described to be between 25 and 35 years old, approached her, said SPO4 Leonardo Timtiman, case investigator.

Lee's unidentified driver quickly took the keys of the vehicle, police said. He got out of the vehicle and started to make a commotion, attract-

ing onlookers just as the men managed to force Lee into the vehicle, police said.

But Lee managed to break free from her abductors and escaped. By then, a crowd had gathered, forcing the kidnappers to flee without her, SPO4 Timtiman said.

Police, however, complained that the victim and her family refused to cooperate with authorities in the investigation.

'The chairman has been shot!'

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

"Help! Help! Please help the chairman! He's been shot!"

Barangay officer Teresita Testado screamed at the top of her voice. Still, nobody came to the rescue of Diosdado A. Reyes.

Reyes, 60, chair of Barangay 628 Zone 63 in Sta. Mesa, Manila, was killed after five unidentified men waylaid him outside the barangay hall along Anonas Street at the NDC Compound in Sta. Mesa, said investigator SPO4 Solomon Battaler Jr. of the Western Police District-homicide section.

Reyes suffered a gunshot wound between the eyes and in the neck. Witnesses described the suspects as in their early 20s, medium built,

and fair-complexioned, Battaler said.

He said Reyes had just alighted from his jeep and was about to enter the barangay hall when the men shot him around 8:45 a.m.

Testado told investigators he noticed three men enter the barangay hall minutes before the shooting. Two other men waited outside, she said.

"I asked them what they wanted and they said they were applying for a barangay clearance," Testado said.

Moments later, she heard a gunshot. She ran out and saw one of the men shoot Reyes, who was already down on the ground, she told Battaler.

"I ran out on the street and shouted for help but nobody came,"

Testado said.

Some of the children at a daycare center inside the barangay compound cried after seeing Reyes fall. The barangay captain died on the spot.

Investigators later recovered spent shells from a .45 cal pistol at the shooting scene, Battaler said.

The gunmen commandeered a passing tricycle which drove toward Teresa Street, Battaler added.

Police said they were not discounting the possibility that Reyes was killed due to politics.

The victim was a known supporter of Manila 6th District Rep. Mark Jimenez. Reyes reportedly had been getting death threats since May.

Las Piñas abortion suspect hunted

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

POLICE are hunting down a doctor for allegedly performing abortion that resulted in the death of a woman

in Las Piñas City yesterday morning.

Christina Roque, 24, of Pasig Line Street, Sta. Ana, Manila, died after the abortion allegedly performed by a Dr. Lucila Lim last Wednesday, police said.

Roque went to Lim's maternity clinic on Patola Street at the CAA compound in Las Piñas around 5:30 a.m. Wednesday to have an unwanted pregnancy aborted, according to the investigation by SPO1 George Gabriel of the city's Station Investigation Bureau.

Gabriel said the doctor performed abortion on the woman around 10 p.m. on the same day.

After the abortion, Roque

phoned her friend Maricel Abalayan and asked her to fetch her from the clinic, police said.

Abalayan, together with companions Mary Jane Albueno and Aurora Candelaria, arrived at the clinic hours later. But Roque collapsed even before she and her friends could leave the clinic, the investigator said.

Her friends brought Roque to the Las Piñas Medical Center where she died at 1:35 a.m., police said. Her body was brought to the Philippine National Police Crime Laboratory for autopsy.

Police said they would determine if there are other abortion clinics in the city.

DOH: Anthrax has not ...

(From page A25)

"It's important for people not to panic but to be aware of what to do," the President said.

She said the public could easily protect themselves from getting infected. A 15-minute shower is all it takes to get rid of any spores, she said.

If symptoms develop, common antibiotics could treat the symptoms, she said.

The President said that those who receive suspicious mail containing a powdery substance should turn these over to the nearest DOH office for testing.

Dayrit said the DOH had expected the public's overreaction because of the vulnerability of the Filipino psyche to things and events that are perceived to be out of their control.

Western Police District (SPD) director Chief Supt. Nicolas Wapins Jr. said he would excuse a police-

man if he would not come near a baggage suspected of being infected with anthrax.

"But he would have to secure the area," Pasinos said.

He said police do not know how to handle anthrax, and he also admitted that he would not know how to identify the bacteria.

"I hope that starting today, the police would get special training on this," he said. "But it would take time."

"We don't know what we're up against," he explained. "Members of EOD (explosives and ordnance division) know how to handle explosives so they are not afraid of bombs."

Philippine National Police chief Dir. Gen. Leandro Mendoza also admitted that police do not have the capability to fight bioterrorism.

"When you are talking about biological (terrorism), it can happen anywhere," Mendoza said. "This is clearly beyond the police's capability already."

But he said police have been keeping a close watch on water sources and have

increased security in these areas. Police are also watching transport systems like the Light Rail Transit, the Metro Rail Transit, airports and bus companies for suspicious persons.

In malls, police have doubled their presence to meet any threat from terrorist attacks and common criminality, he said.

Police have also secured foreign embassies, he said.

"The best way to prevent a scare is to really educate the people," said Pasay City health officer Dr. Pilar Perez. "Prevention and preparedness are the key."

About 1,000 flyers containing information on anthrax, how it is transmitted and how it can be avoided have been distributed in barangays and 11 health centers in Pasay. The flyers were written in both English and Filipino.

In Muntinlupa, a jeepney driver reportedly got sick after he came in contact with an envelope supposedly containing a chemical in powder form.

Local officials doubted the driver was exposed to anthrax, but they sent the envelope to the Philippine National Police Crime Laboratory for examination.

above the threshold of safety levels.

Metro Manilans do not need statistics to be able to tell the air is dirty, Zubiri said.

"Our senses already (know)," he added.

Speaker Jose de Venecia also downplayed the anthrax scare and said

Mandaluyong school reunion

A GRAND homecoming of Mandaluyong Elementary School alumni will be held on Saturday 2 p.m. at the MES Gym on Aglipay St. Mandaluyong City.

The affair, a celebration of the school's 100th foundation day, will involve graduates from 1920 to 1990.

Rep. Neptali Gonzales Jr., Mandaluyong City Mayor Benhur Abalos and MMDA chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. will be the main guests.

Fr. Daniel Sta. Maria, parish priest of the Immaculate Conception Parish will do the invocation.

Welcome remarks will be given by Dr. Josefina Atog, MES principal, and Gaylord Cordero, alumni association president.

A motorcade, games, raffle and ballroom dancing highlight the celebrations.

there is no anthrax scare in the House of Representatives, where representatives of 212 districts nationwide and party-list groups hold office.

Precautionary measures, however, are already being taken in the House, said Camarines Sur Rep. Rolando Andaya. "We don't open our mail," he said.

Undertakers, stay away from hospitals

BY JEROME ANING

REPRESENTATIVES of funeral parlors will soon be prohibited from entering or roaming the premises of Manila's hospitals and offering their services to relatives of patients who are dying or are in critical condition.

Draft Ordinance No. 6138, authored by Manila 2nd district Councilor Ruben Buenaventura, describes as "abhorrent and disgusting" the practice of some funeral parlors who send agents to hospitals and other medical facilities to sell their services to relatives of patients who are still alive.

Buenaventura, who chairs the council's health and social welfare committee, said the practice is "unscrupulous and opportunistic" and should be stopped.

If the ordinance is approved, unauthorized funeral parlor agents found loitering in hospital premises would be fined P1,000, imprisoned for 15 days, or both. The funeral parlor owners face the same punishment.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, October 19, 2001
28th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading:
Gospel:

Rom 4:1-8
Lk 12:1-7

Such a numerous crowd had gathered that they crushed one another. Then Jesus spoke to his disciples in this way,

"Beware of the yeast of the Pharisees which is hypocrisy. Nothing is covered that will not be uncovered, or hidden that will not be made known. Whatever you have said in the darkness will be heard in daylight, and what you have whispered in hidden places, will be proclaimed from the housetops.

I tell you, my friends, do not fear those who put to death the body and after that can do no more. But I will tell you whom to fear: Fear the One who after killing you is able to throw you into hell. This one you must fear. Don't you get five sparrows for two pennies? Yet not one of them has been forgotten by God. Even the hairs of your head have been numbered. So do not fear: are you not worth more than a flock of sparrows?"

Commentary

The gospel came at a time of persecution. So its word was "covered up," a secret among disciples only. But after receiving the Holy Spirit, the disciples began to proclaim it with daring boldness "from housetops." The housetop was flat, and it was usually the place for public announcements. The need for proclaiming the word with courage stems from the fear of God. In the Bible, the fear of God is reverence. Without this reverence, the half-hearted can be easily overcome by the fear of unbelievers. There is nothing to fear really. "Don't be afraid." We are safe under God's protection. If God cares for the sparrows, the smallest of all birds, how much more for us who live and work for his interests?

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

JUDICIAL ETHICS—Highest standards of judicial conduct—By the very nature of the bench, judges, more than the average man, are required to observe an exacting standard of morality and decency. The character of a judge is perceived by the people not only through his official acts but also through his private morals as reflected in his external behavior. It is therefore paramount that a judge's personal behavior both in the performance of his duties and his daily life, be free from the appearance of impropriety as to be beyond reproach. While every public office in the government is a public trust, no position exacts a greater demand on moral righteousness and uprightness of an individual than a seat in the judiciary. Hence, judges are strictly mandated to abide by the law, the Code of Judicial Conduct and with existing administrative policies in order to maintain the faith of the people in the administration of justice. Judges must adhere to the highest tenets of judicial conduct. They must be the embodiment of competence, integrity and independence. A judge's conduct must be above reproach. Like Caesar's wife, a judge must not only be pure but above suspicion. A judge's private as well as official conduct must at all times be free from all appearances of impropriety, and be beyond reproach. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Ynares-Santiago, First Division, Dela Cruz v. Bersamira, A. M. No. RTJ-00-1567, January 19, 2001]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

the metropolis is a "toxic combination more lethal than any germ or chemical weapon Osama bin Laden's bioterrorists could ever concoct," Zubiri said.

"Residents of Metro Manila should be more concerned about the real poison in the air and not the imaginary one in their mail," he said.

He noted that local health and environmental groups have a unanimous verdict that Metro Manila is "one big gas chamber" whose residents are punished with "slow death."

Zubiri said 75 percent of street-level air quality in Metro Manila is unhealthy and has residues that are twice or three

Gabrielle knows how it is to have loved and lost



GABRIELLE

BY MARINEL R. CRUZ

EVEN as the sequel to the British hit comedy film "Bridget Jones's Diary" is already in the works, the movie's theme song, "Out of Reach," still continues to climb the music charts all over the world.

British pop-soul diva Gabrielle, who composed and sang the song, couldn't be any happier.

"I'm glad people like the song," Gabrielle told the INQUIRER in a phone interview. "It's probably because a lot of them can relate to it."

The song is based on a moment in Helen Fielding's book in which Bridget Jones has finally realized that there's still life after a terrible break-up with the man she deeply loved.

The song is also included in

Gabrielle's third album "Rise," which was released locally last year.

Gabrielle, known for writing songs based on her own experiences, said when she wrote "Out of Reach," she had simply put herself in Bridget Jones' shoes.

"I was Bridget Jones when I was reading the book," she explained. "I imagined the heartache that she's experiencing."

The 32-year-old artist said the album's carrier single, "Rise" is a personal testimony about finding love, letting go and moving on. This was written following the conviction of her ex-fiancé Tony of first-degree murder.

Unlike other artists, Gabrielle said it took her a couple of years to finish the album because she writes her own songs.

"Sometimes I couldn't write at all," she admitted. "People had to wait very patiently. I had to wait for inspiration to come."

Patience proved to be fruitful for Gabrielle because the album is now certified four times platinum, posting sales of 1.2 million in the UK alone.

"Rise" the album contains 12 songs which are mostly about falling in love or letting go of a failed relationship. Gabrielle said she never has a method in writing or choosing her songs "I simply write about what I feel and how I see things."

Gabrielle was influenced by people like Michael Jackson, the Culture Club, Chaka Khan, Wham!, and the mellow tunes of Marvin Gaye, Barry White, and Dennis Brown.

But she said her influences could

actually come from anywhere. "I wasn't just inspired by music but by anything that is really good," she said.

She dreams of being able to perform in a big production, much like Madonna's concert at Earls Court Arena in London.

She said Madonna's "Drowned World Tour 2001" concert last June was well constructed, from the lighting to Madonna's "flying" around the stage.

"I went to her concert and it blew me away," Gabrielle said. "It was fantastic. I'd love to do something like that. That would be perfect."

She is also currently preparing for her UK tour. The 29-date tour will coincide with the release of her Greatest Hits album in UK in November.

Though there are still no immediate plans, the singer is hoping to be able to visit Asia late next year.

"I'd love to come to Asia. One day, I could visit the Philippines. From where I am, it's such a lovely place, with lovely people, nice food. Oh, I'll get fat!"

Gabrielle said she was about 13 when she dreamed of performing.

"I was a dreamer, I wanted to sing," she said. "I didn't think of anything, I just wanted to perform. This is my dream from a very young age."

But she was just a regular kid who studied and played tricks in class, so she was thrilled whenever she got to mingle with people connected with music.

"I was always thinking, someday, that would be me singing."

PAYATAS: POINT COUNTERPOINT

An urban tragedy set to dance

"I'll dance above your green, green grave
Where you do lie beneath"

NO ONE knows who wrote that piece, but there you have a compelling picture of what "Payatas: Point Counterpoint" is all about.

Payatas is a dance video collaboration choreographed by Myra Beltran and directed by Carlos Siguion-Reyna, with two of the videos co-directed by Nonoy Froilan.

It will screen tomorrow, 2 p.m., at the Filipinas Heritage Library on Makati Avenue, Ayala Triangle, Makati City.

Rina Jimenez-David describes

Payatas as "truly gut-wrenching," while Sister Mary John Mananzan says it is "nakaka-sakit ng sikmura."

Payatas was first presented by Beltran, Siguion-Reyna and Ballet Philippines at the Cultural Center of the Philippines' Little Theater early this year. The dancers performed live on stage while the narrative video plays on a background screen.

Beltran and Siguion-Reyna decided to photograph the dance separately to play alongside the story video for a screening sponsored by Kalakasan, a women's advocacy group.

Edited by Rica Concepcion, the 42-minute video challenges the viewer to watch two stories unfold at the same

time, as projected on two video screens on stage.

On the left, the dance interpretation of the story, and on the right the narrative itself: When domestic violence pushes a woman to kill her husband, she and her son find themselves exploited by media, politicians, and the Church.

The Filipinas Heritage Library screening is free of charge and open to the public, through the support of the Ayala Foundation, Jaime Zobel, Fernando Zobel, Jaime Augusto Zobel, Sofia Elizalde, Cecile Cruz, Thor Balanon, and Anna Leah Sarabia.

Call telephone number 892-1801 for reservations.

Planet Love with John Robinson

AFTER the landmark Cream Live at The Fort last year, Joey at 92.3 FM and NBC Entertainment will bring in another international club brand for a massive dance party to celebrate Halloween, Planet Love @ The Tent on Oct. 31.

Planet Love is a club brand from Japan whose bi-monthly party at Tokyo's biggest club, Velfarre, gathers over 2,000 partygoers each night.

For the first time in Philippine dance

history, the Planet Love "love banner" will be seen in Manila. It will be a showcase of music, clubbing and lifestyles on Halloween eve.

With the best of international music as the background, the event promises to be an all-around intense physical, emotional and audio-visual experience with lots of fun, food and drinks.

It will be headlined by DJ Koutaru, who has played in major clubs all over the world,

including the world-famous Twilo, and DJ John Robinson of Planet Love.

To add to the excitement, Japanese Visual Jockey Turu will also be brought in to provide partygoers with cutting-edge visual graphics that only the Planet Love experience can provide.

Party starts at 10 p.m. and will last until the wee hours of the next day.

Don't miss out on the most exciting dance event to hit the country.

Filipino-Korean Cultural Exchange Festival

LEADING Filipino and Korean artists will be featured in the 10th Filipino-Korean Cultural Exchange Festival tomorrow, from 5 to 9 p.m. at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

According to Korean Association Phils. Inc. president Sung Chon Hong, the festival will have as special guest action star Monsour del Rosario, GMA 7 drama princess Angelika de la Cruz, Kyla and Martina Hernandez, as well as Korean singers Shim Sin and Jeon

You Na.

"There's no better way to express and affirm the friendship of two nations than to have this cultural exchange wherein Filipinos and Koreans get a chance to show their special talents through sports, song and dance," said Hong, who has helped strengthen Filipino-Korean fellowship through the years.

The festival is sponsored by the Republic of Korea and the Department of Tourism.

Boob-tube boobooos

HOST: How complete are the sports facilities in our schools?

GUEST: Well, the budget is tight, so not all sports are covered.

HOST: Mainly just basketball?

GUEST: Mainly basketball. But things are much better there. Most of our schools almost have basketball courts!

(Wow, muntik na!)

HOST: What will you do if you win a lot of money on our show tonight? How will you spend it?

CONTESTANT: I will donate some of my winning money!

(Winning money? What's that?)

HOST: I hear that two young leading men are courting you. Which one do you favor?

ACTRESS: They're only my good friends, really.

HOST: OK, let's put it this way: *Kanino ka mas close?*

ACTRESS: *Mas close ako sa kanila pareho!* (Duh...)

HOST: I hear you had to work hard to get where you are now?

GUEST: Oh yes, I did all sorts of jobs just to survive, and to feed my family.

HOST: What was your first job, and how old were you then?

GUEST: I was only nine years old and I was already bending sidewalks!

(Ano daw?!)

WEATHERMAN: *Ang tayá ng panahon ngayon: Ang babaeng dagat ay magiging katamtaman lamang.*

(We always knew it! The sea is a she!)

HOST: Is it true that fewer people are flying these days?

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre



GUEST: That's true. They're scared of more skyjackings and bomb explosions.

HOST: So, how are people going from place to place now?

GUEST: By land. If you go to the bus terminals, you will see that they are almost if not always crowded!

Programming changes

PROGRAMMING changes on Monster Radio RX93.1: "The Morning Rush" with Boom Gonzalez and Chinggay is heard daily from 6 to 9 a.m. Regular portions include "The Morning Workout" and "Wake-Up Message."

In the new portions, "Case of the Ex" and "Wake Up An Ex," listeners are given the chance to share stories about their former flames, and to communicate with them.

From 9 a.m. to 12 noon, "Whatever!" spotlights Francesca and Trish with their breezy banter and entertaining portions.

From 12 to 3 p.m., Louie D and Danielle host the station's flagship program, "All-Hit Daily Survey."

From 3 to 6 p.m., Jude Rocha's "The Ride" takes listeners on a cool, de-stressing sunset cruise, with Maxine cohosting.

From 7 to 10 p.m. on "The Primetime Clinic," Tom Alvarez and Evette treat lovesick "patients" with doses of tender loving care and care-free irreverence.

From 10 p.m. to 1 a.m., "Rico's Neighborhood" showcases the engaging stories and antics of Rico Robles. Back-up DJ CJ Rodriguez fills in on certain days before ushering in "Night Owls," the Gauch's potent early-morning pick-me-up, incorporating "RX Hottest."

Other Monster RX activities this month include the premiere of "Training Day" (starring Denzel Washington), the RX Band Breakout 2001's third showcase, Break to the Beat, the RX sem-break party scream All You Want, the Monster Halloween Party, and the final days of King Babajigalu's Getaway.

7 NOMINATIONS 5 WINNERS ALPHA RECORDS BAGS 5 TROPHIES IN THE 2001 AWIT AWARDS



BEST CHRISTMAS RECORDING
★CHRISTMAS BONUS
BY AEGIS



BEST INSTRUMENTAL PERFORMANCE
★BAKIT BAP
BY GERRY PARAISO



BEST ROCK RECORDING
★I LIKE
BY POPFILTER



BEST PERFORMANCE BY A CHILD RECORDING ARTIST
★ANG PANGINOON ANG AIKING PASTOL
BY DINDIN LLARENA



BEST REGIONAL SONG RECORDING
★KANTAN KA
BY VHEN BAUTISTA

CONGRATULATIONS ALSO TO OUR NOMINEES WHO MADE IT AS FINALISTS:



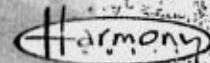
BEST PERFORMANCE BY A NEW FEMALE RECORDING ARTIST
★NILUNOK K'ONG LAHAT
BY SELINA SEVILLA



BEST ALTERNATIVE RECORDING
★I LIKE
BY POPFILTER



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR ARTISTS, COMPOSERS, AND PRODUCERS
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'Mr. Bean' fears ban on religious jokes

THE RUBBER-faced star of hit comic film "Bean" complained Wednesday that new anti-terrorist measures in Britain could lead to jail for comedians lampooning religious figures.

In a letter to The Times, Rowan Atkinson said he was "aghast" at the measures which he feared could make it illegal to ridicule religions or make religious jokes.

The proposals which Home Secretary David Blunkett wants to make law would, aside from combatting terrorism, make incitement to religious hatred a formal criminal offense with a maximum jail term of seven years.

It is designed to prevent "racists, bigots and hotheads" stirring up racial hatred in the wake of the Sept. 11 atrocities in the United States.

"I have always believed there should be no subject about which one cannot make jokes, religion included," Atkinson wrote.

"For telling a good and incisive religious joke, you should be praised. For telling a bad one, you should be ridiculed and reviled. The idea that you could be prosecuted for the telling of either is quite fantastic."

Atkinson is one of Britain's most popular comedians.

His "Mr. Bean" television series has been shown around the world, although he is better known in Britain as the upwardly-striving "Blackadder."

He said supporters of the proposed legislation might claim it was not aimed at comedians.

But "laws governing highly subjective or moral issues tend to drag a very fine net, and some of the most basic freedoms of speech and expression can get caught up in it."



ATKINSON

He questioned whether the Monty Python film "The Life of Brian"—an irreverent spoof of the life of Christ—could have been made under the proposed laws.

"I believe that it is the reaction of the audience that should decide the appropriateness of a joke, not the law of the land," Atkinson said.

The Home Office insisted the measures were aimed at preventing incitement, not at stopping free speech. **AFF**

New Cusack movie no critics' favorite but is a hit

LOS ANGELES—Destiny with a sense of humor.

That's what the film "Serendipity," starring John Cusack and Kate Beckinsale, is all about.

While still here in the city of angels, I treated myself to the movie, which I watched last weekend with Manila Bulletin's Shirley Matias-Pizarro and New York-based Newsweek writer Fe Kagahastian-Conway, who also used to work for Manila Bulletin.

We all wanted to watch a feel-good movie, although there were seven others to choose from at the cinema in downtown L.A. where we caught the last full show last Friday night.

The other titles on the marquee were the new thriller with Michael Douglas, "Don't Say a Word," the Ben Stiller comedy "Zoolander," the Anthony Hopkins starrer, "Hearts in Atlantis," the hilarious gangster movie, "Bandits" with Bruce Willis and Billy Bob Thornton, "Hardball" which stars Keanu Reeves, and "Training Day" with Denzel Washington and Ethan Hawke.

And, would you believe, the Jackie Chan-Chris Tucker action-comedy "Rush Hour 2," which continues to pack theaters here?

Although "Serendipity" did not earn good reviews from critics here, the movie is a box office success. Director Peter Chelsom manages to create thrilling screen chemistry with first-time screen partners Cusack and Beckinsale.

Cusack is the "flavor of the month" in Hollywood after teaming up with Julia Roberts in "America's Sweethearts." Beckinsale is best remembered as the love-struck woman in Jerry Bruckheimer's "Pearl Harbor," where she starred opposite Ben Affleck and Josh Hartnett.

Beckinsale was in Manila four years ago to film "Brokeback Palace," costarring Claire Danes and Bill Pullman and directed by Jonathan Kaplan.

"Serendipity" is a romantic comedy that makes you want to believe in romance. Perhaps even the most jaded will appreciate this delightful fairy tale.

When I get back to Manila, I'll make sure my friend and former officemate Susan de Guzman watches the film. I remember her swooning over Pullman and Sandra Bullock after she saw them in the romantic comedy "While You Were Sleeping."

Susan was even willing to work behind the token counter of the LRT so she could meet the man of her dreams, like Bullock's character did in the movie. Now, after watching "Serendipity," Susan will probably start hanging around department stores to meet her Jonathan Traeger, the Cusack character.

The opening scene takes place at Bloomingdale's in New York, where Cusack and Beckinsale argue over a pair of black gloves.

Serendipity is actually the name of a popular ice cream house in Manhattan, where a scene in the movie "One Fine Day" was shot, with Michelle Pfeiffer and two kids eating ice cream.

During a visit to New York one winter, my friend Yvette Fernandez, who works in Bloomberg, treated me to a chocolate parfait, without the whipped cream, at Serendipity.

In the movie, the ice cream house is featured as it is, complete with its façade decorated with Christmas trimmings. It is there where the Cusack and Beckinsale characters debate

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio



whether their meeting was chance or destiny, since both are already engaged.

Without revealing their real names to each other, they leave their next meeting to chance. She makes him

write his name and phone number on a five-dollar bill which she uses to buy chocolates from a sidewalk kiosk.

In turn, she says she will write her name and number in her copy of the Gabriel Garcia Marquez book "Love in Time of Cholera" and sell the book the following day to a second-hand bookstore.

If the five-dollar bill returns to her or if he gets hold of the book, then they are meant to be together.

Cusack and Beckinsale are supported by equally good actors. Molly Shannon plays Beckinsale's eternally supportive best friend. John Corbett is her rocker boyfriend and Eugene Levy is the Bloomingdale's counter guy who conspires with Cusack in tracking down Beckinsale's address.

The surprise of the movie is Jeremy Piven who plays Cusack's best friend. I don't even remember where I last saw Piven, but he can be a good comedian even in supporting roles.

The final scene of "Serendipity" is predictable. But that's where the magic of the film lies.

Ricci deadringer

LOS ANGELES-based journalist Ruben and Janet Nepales treated us to dinner at Tony Roma's, where Ruben's pretty niece Rosemary Chubb was also celebrating her 22nd birthday.

Rosemary, a deadringer for Hollywood actress Christina Ricci, was born in Manila but grew up in L.A. She now works for United Airlines but she looks beautiful enough to be a beauty contest candidate or even a winner.

Over dinner, we also met Raul Navarette, a young restaurateur from Manila who was on a three-month visit in the US. He is one of the business partners of actress Anna Roces in the Italian restaurant La Tavola on Remedios Street in Malate.

Happy wife and mother

ON OUR way to L.A. on board Philippines Airlines, we chatted with former Olympic gymnast and taekwondo contender Bea Lucero.

I remember interviewing Bea in their family residence in Ayala Alabang nearly 10 years ago, when she was still an image model for Ivory soap. Bea was going to L.A. to visit her parents.

All her family members are now based abroad. She also has a brother in New Zealand. She is now married to John Lhuiller and they have an 18-month-old son, Stephan.

Although she still remains a celebrity and is recognized everywhere she goes, Bea said she now enjoys her private life as wife and mother. She keeps fit by walking around Manila Polo Club.

Bea would be in L.A. for only four days. She shuttles between Manila and Rome, where her in-laws are based.

Her father-in-law is the Philippine ambassador to Rome.

"Stephan has been to Italy twice and my in-laws really love seeing him," Bea said.

On the same flight were movie columnist and "S" show biz magazine publisher Aster Amoyo, and BMG Records Pilipinas executive Narciso Chan who was also watching Lea Salonga's new musical, "Flower Drum Song."

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SM CINEMA
SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 633-9999
NOW SHOWING

CITY BACOR 417388	CITY NORTH EDSA 839452
1 THE BODY	1 MANANABAS
2 NAKED NIGHTS	2 NAKED NIGHTS
3 AMERICAN PIE 2	3 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
4 MANANABAS	4 EXTREME FORCE
5 13 DAYS	5 MANANABAS
6 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO	6 THE BODY
7 AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS	7 AMERICAN PIE 2
8 SISID	8 AMERICAN PIE 2
CENTERPOINT 719332-719416	SOUTHMALL 8066888
1 MANANABAS	1 AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
2 13 DAYS	2 13 DAYS
3 THE BODY	3 AMERICAN PIE 2
4 EXTREME FORCE	4 MANANABAS
5 AMERICAN PIE 2	5 THE HOLE
6 NAKED NIGHTS	6 EXTREME FORCE
7 AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS	7 CLOSED
8 FAST & FURIOUS	8 THE BODY
9 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO	9 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
10 THE HOLE	10 NAKED NIGHTS
CITY FAIRVIEW 935949	GUADALUPE COMM'L 822895
1 FAST & FURIOUS	1 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
2 LA VIDA ROSA	2 MANANABAS
3 THE HOLE	3 MANANABAS
4 AMERICAN PIE 2	4 NAKED NIGHTS
5 13 DAYS	5 AMERICAN PIE 2
6 MANANABAS	6 THE BODY
7 AMERICAN PIE 2	7 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
8 THE BODY	8 AMERICA'S SWEETHEART
9 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO	9 SISID
10 AMERICA'S SWEETHEART	10 NAKED NIGHTS
11 SISID	
12 NAKED NIGHTS	
CITY MANILA 532940	CEBU 213176
1 THE BODY	1 AMERICA'S SWEETHEART
2 13 DAYS	2 ORIGINAL SIN
3 AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS	3 PRINCESS DIARIES
4 AMERICAN PIE 2	4 YOUNG WARLOCK
5 THE HOLE	5 MARITAL RAPE
6 FAST & FURIOUS	6 MANANABAS
7 EXTREME FORCE	7 FAST & FURIOUS
8 PRINCESS DIARIES	
9 MANANABAS	
10 NAKED NIGHTS	
11 AMERICAN PIE 2	
12 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO	
MEGAMALL 831891 • 832401	PAMPANGA 712015
1 PRINCESS DIARIES	1 13 DAYS
2 13 DAYS	2 OSMOSIS JONES
3 AMERICAN PIE 2	3 AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
4 AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS	4 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
5 THE BODY	5 MARITAL RAPE
6 EXTREME FORCE	6 MANANABAS
7 NAKED NIGHTS	
8 AMERICAN PIE 2	
9 MANANABAS	
10 FAST & FURIOUS	
11 THE HOLE	
12 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO	
TUTUBAN 251002	DAYAO
1 AMERICAN PIE 2	1 SOON TO OPEN
2 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO	2 6 STATE-OF-THE-ART
3 THE BODY	3 MOVIE THEATERS
4 MANANABAS	

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

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GLORIETTA 1 1 MANANABAS	GLORIETTA 4 1 THE BODY	GREENBELT 5 TOWN & COUNTRY	ALABANG TOWN CENTER 1 AMERICAN PIE 2
2 AMERICAN PIE 2	2 AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS	6 AMERICAN PIE 2	2 THE BODY
3 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO	3 AMERICAN PIE 2	7 THIRTEEN DAYS	3 AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
4 THE BODY	4 ABOUT ADAM	4 THIRTEEN DAYS	4 OSMOSIS JONES

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION
MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING
EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA (Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72	GOTESCO CINEMA City (Manila) tel 734.8588	Cinema 2000 Target Mall (Sta. Rosa Laguna) tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198
1 A KNIGHT'S TALE	1 MANANABAS	1 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
2 AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS	2 NAKED NIGHTS	2 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
3 FAST & FURIOUS	3 AMERICAN PIE 2	3 AMERICAN PIE 2
4 AMERICAN PIE 2	4 EXTREME FORCE	4 AMERICAN PIE 2
5 AMERICAN PIE 2	5 THE BODY	5 AMERICAN PIE 2
6 13 DAYS	6 MANANABAS	6 AMERICAN PIE 2
7 THE BODY	7 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO	7 AMERICAN PIE 2
8 THE BODY	8 MANANABAS	8 AMERICAN PIE 2
9 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO	9 MANANABAS	9 AMERICAN PIE 2
10 NAKED NIGHTS	10 NAKED NIGHTS	10 AMERICAN PIE 2

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Paranaque) tel. 853.4486

1 LAST ERUPTION	1 AMERICAN PIE 2
2 MANANABAS	2 NAKED NIGHTS
3 MANANABAS	3 NAKED NIGHTS
4 MANANABAS	4 NAKED NIGHTS
5 MANANABAS	5 NAKED NIGHTS
6 MANANABAS	6 NAKED NIGHTS
7 MANANABAS	7 NAKED NIGHTS
8 MANANABAS	8 NAKED NIGHTS
9 MANANABAS	9 NAKED NIGHTS
10 MANANABAS	10 NAKED NIGHTS

Maragana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 831.6603

1 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO	1 AMERICAN PIE 2
2 MANANABAS	2 AMERICAN PIE 2
3 NAKED NIGHTS	3 AMERICAN PIE 2

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1 MANANABAS	1 AMERICAN PIE 2
2 MANANABAS	2 NAKED NIGHTS
3 MANANABAS	3 NAKED NIGHTS
4 MANANABAS	4 NAKED NIGHTS
5 MANANABAS	5 NAKED NIGHTS
6 MANANABAS	6 NAKED NIGHTS
7 MANANABAS	7 NAKED NIGHTS
8 MANANABAS	8 NAKED NIGHTS
9 MANANABAS	9 NAKED NIGHTS
10 MANANABAS	10 NAKED NIGHTS

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1 MANANABAS	1 AMERICAN PIE 2
2 MANANABAS	2 NAKED NIGHTS
3 MANANABAS	3 NAKED NIGHTS
4 MANANABAS	4 NAKED NIGHTS
5 MANANABAS	5 NAKED NIGHTS
6 MANANABAS	6 NAKED NIGHTS
7 MANANABAS	7 NAKED NIGHTS
8 MANANABAS	8 NAKED NIGHTS
9 MANANABAS	9 NAKED NIGHTS
10 MANANABAS	10 NAKED NIGHTS

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

1 SIN OF THE NIGHT	1 AMERICAN PIE 2
2 NAKED NIGHTS	2 NAKED NIGHTS
3 NAKED NIGHTS	3 NAKED NIGHTS
4 NAKED NIGHTS	4 NAKED NIGHTS
5 NAKED NIGHTS	5 NAKED NIGHTS
6 NAKED NIGHTS	6 NAKED NIGHTS
7 NAKED NIGHTS	7 NAKED NIGHTS
8 NAKED NIGHTS	8 NAKED NIGHTS
9 NAKED NIGHTS	9 NAKED NIGHTS
10 NAKED NIGHTS	10 NAKED NIGHTS

Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO	1 MANANABAS
2 MANANABAS	2 NAKED NIGHTS
3 NAKED NIGHTS	3 NAKED NIGHTS

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

1 MANANABAS	1 AMERICAN PIE 2
2 MANANABAS	2 NAKED NIGHTS
3 MANANABAS	3 NAKED NIGHTS
4 MANANABAS	4 NAKED NIGHTS
5 MANANABAS	5 NAKED NIGHTS
6 MANANABAS	6 NAKED NIGHTS
7 MANANABAS	7 NAKED NIGHTS
8 MANANABAS	8 NAKED NIGHTS
9 MANANABAS	9 NAKED NIGHTS
10 MANANABAS	10 NAKED NIGHTS

Isetann Cinemas Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 THE BODY	1 AMERICAN PIE 2
2 NAKED NIGHTS	2 NAKED NIGHTS
3 NAKED NIGHTS	3 NAKED NIGHTS
4 NAKED NIGHTS	4 NAKED NIGHTS
5 NAKED NIGHTS	5 NAKED NIGHTS
6 NAKED NIGHTS	6 NAKED NIGHTS
7 NAKED NIGHTS	7 NAKED NIGHTS
8 NAKED NIGHTS	8 NAKED NIGHTS
9 NAKED NIGHTS	9 NAKED NIGHTS
10 NAKED NIGHTS	10 NAKED NIGHTS

Premiere
(Makati City) tel 751.2011 to 13

1 AMERICAN PIE 2	1 AMERICAN PIE 2
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Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1 KNIGHT'S TALE	1 AMERICAN PIE 2
2 MARITAL RAPE	2 AMERICAN PIE 2

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.
tel 930.9515

1 MANANABAS	1 AMERICAN PIE 2
2 MANANABAS	2 AMERICAN PIE 2
3 MANANABAS	3 AMERICAN PIE 2

Spring
(Libertad, Pasig City) tel 831.7864

1 NEW FIST OF FURY	1 AMERICAN PIE 2
2 NAKED NIGHTS	2 AMERICAN PIE 2

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1 MANANABAS	1 AMERICAN PIE 2
2 NAKED NIGHTS	2 AMERICAN PIE 2
3 NAKED NIGHTS	3 AMERICAN PIE 2
4 NAKED NIGHTS	4 AMERICAN PIE 2

New Divisoria Mall
DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1 NAKED NIGHTS	1 AMERICAN PIE 2
2 NAKED NIGHTS	2 AMERICAN PIE 2
3 NAKED NIGHTS	3 AMERICAN PIE 2
4 NAKED NIGHTS	4 AMERICAN PIE 2
5 NAKED NIGHTS	5 AMERICAN PIE 2
6 NAKED NIGHTS	6 AMERICAN PIE 2
7 NAKED NIGHTS	7 AMERICAN PIE 2
8 NAKED NIGHTS	8 AMERICAN PIE 2
9 NAKED NIGHTS	9 AMERICAN PIE 2
10 NAKED NIGHTS	10 AMERICAN PIE 2

Baclaran LRT
LRT CINEMA
tel 512.0115

1 MANANABAS	1 AMERICAN PIE 2
2 MANANABAS	2 AMERICAN PIE 2
3 MANANABAS	3 AMERICAN PIE 2

Berma
tel 879.2029

1 MANANABAS	1 AMERICAN PIE 2
2 MANANABAS	2 AMERICAN PIE 2
3 MANANABAS	3 AMERICAN PIE 2
4 MANANABAS	4 AMERICAN PIE 2

CitiMall
(Paranaque) tel 820.7269

1 MANANABAS	1 AMERICAN PIE 2
2 MANANABAS	2 AMERICAN PIE 2
3 MANANABAS	3 AMERICAN PIE 2
4 MANANABAS	4 AMERICAN PIE 2

ADVANCED SCREENING **THX** **DOLBY** **SDS**

PREMIERE **THX** **DOLBY** **SDS**

AMERICAN PIE 2

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD
NOW SHOWING
State-Of-The-Art Cinema

GALLERIA 832-8115-16 / 833-7641 loc. 270	ERMITA 836-7809 TO 12
1 INVISIBLE CIRCUS	1 AMERICAN PIE 2
2 THE BODY	2 EXTREME FORCE
3 EXTREME FORCE	3 13 DAYS
4 13 DAYS	4 MANANABAS
5 AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS	5 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
6 AMERICAN PIE 2	6 AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
7 AMERICAN PIE 2	7 THE BODY
8 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO	
9 MANANABAS	
10 NAKED NIGHTS	
NOVALICHES 835-3229 TO 31	IMUS (046) 471-8188
1 RESERVE	1 AMERICAN PIE 2
2 MANANABAS	2 13 DAYS
3 NAKED NIGHTS	3 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
4 MANANABAS	4 THE BODY
5 AMERICAN PIE 2	5 MANANABAS
6 RESERVE	6 NAKED NIGHTS
7 AMERICAN PIE 2	
8 THE BODY	
BACOLOD (034) 441-0453	SOON TO OPEN
1 AMERICA'S SWEETHEART	METRO EAST
2 PRINCESS DIARIES	SAN FERNANDO PAMPANGA
3 ORIGINAL SIN	ILOILO
4 FAST & FURIOUS	THX DOLBY SDS
5 MARITAL RAPE	SMART MONEY ACCEPTED
6 LAST ERUPTIONS	AT ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD GALLERIA AND ERMITA

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	MANANABAS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DOLBY)	13 DAYS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (DOLBY)	AMERICAN PIE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DOLBY)	AMERICA'S SWEETHEART
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	EXTREME FORCE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	THE HOLE
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	NAKED NIGHTS
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	MANANABAS
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

MANILA

EASTERN	CLOSED
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	VENUS / FEMALE ANIMAL
ODEON	MANANABAS
ODEON-2	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
ROBEN	NAKED NIGHTS
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	SCREAM... FRIDAY THE 13TH / DR. DOOLITTLE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	NAKED NIGHTS
REMAR	MANANABAS
REMAR-2	NAKED NIGHTS

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	MANANABAS
B	NAKED NIGHT
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-70 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CINE EUROPA 4
CINEMA-2	AMERICAN PIE 2

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	SISID
CINEMA-2	NAKED NIGHTS
CINEMA-3	THE HOLE
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MANANABAS
CINEMA-5 (DOLBY)	13 DAYS
CINEMA-6	MARITAL RAPE
CINEMA-7	LA VIDA ROSA
CINEMA-8	FAST & FURIOUS
CINEMA-9 (DOLBY)	AMERICAN PIE 2
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	AMERICAN PIE 2
CINEMA-11 (DOLBY)	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
CINEMA-12	THE BODY
CINEMA-14	MANANABAS
CINEMA-15	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO

LORES

CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED

POWER PLANT CINEMA

CINEMA-1	THIRTEEN DAYS
CINEMA-2	THE BODY
CINEMA-3	AMERICAN PIE 2
CINEMA-4	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
CINEMA-5	OSMOSIS JONES
CINEMA-6	AMERICAN PIE 2

UNIWIDE METROMALL

(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARANAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	VENUS
CINEMA-2	VENGADOR
CINEMA-4	MAGDALENO ORBOS

Reasons to go to the movies

MOBILE commerce has made moviegoing more convenient.

With a simple text message, moviegoers can save themselves the trouble of lining up for tickets at the box office. Sureseats.com has taken advantage of the texting boom when it introduced ticket reservations through cell phones.

The new service is the brainchild of Globe Telecom and myAyala, in cooperation with Ayala Theaters Management Inc.

'Powerful tool'

"Texting can be more powerful than the Internet because you get information and service anytime and anywhere," said Pom Figueroa, technical head of myAyala. Figueroa leads the team that developed the texting facility of Sureseats.com.

Now texters can be assured of cinema seats hours in advance by typing sureseats <theater name> <cinema number> <screening time> <number of tickets> and sending the message to 2333.

For example, you can save 2 tickets for the 6:20 p.m. screening at Glorietta 4, Cinema 3 by typing sureseats G4 3 6:20pm 2. The service only costs P2 for post-paid and P2.50 for pre-paid. A maximum of 6 tickets can be reserved per text.

Sureseats.com then returns a confirmation text that the sender should display when picking up the tickets at the cinema.

But what if you don't know what movies are being screened or at what times?

Figueroa explained that you can simply reduce the keywords from the above text message. To receive a list of movies showing at Glorietta 4, just send sureseats G4. To get the screening hours of the movie at Glorietta 4 Cinema 1, send sureseats G4 1.

In a few seconds, the system will send you the information you need before making a reservation.

"By offering moviegoers the option of reserving tickets in advance, we are giving them a stress-free movie experience," Figueroa said.

Anyone who has been held up in line at the movies may even consider the P10 reservation fee per ticket a small price to pay for the convenience.

Now showing

Launched earlier this year, the Sureseats.com website lets moviegoers view the schedules of films screened in Ayala theaters and reserve tickets through the Internet.

The website is a project of myAyala.com, a joint venture between Ayala Land Inc., the country's premier property developer, and iAyala Co. Inc., the information technology arm of Ayala Corporation.

Visitors to Sureseats.com only need to click on a theater to know the movies schedules.

They can indicate how many tickets they would like to get for particular screening hours in their cinema of choice.

They are also given the option to specify where they want to be seated in cinemas with guaranteed seating.

ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Pop stars to appear in 3 major concerts to benefit terror victims, boost morale

DOZENS of stars including Paul McCartney, David Bowie, Michael Jackson, Tim McGraw, 'N Sync and the Backstreet Boys plan to perform this weekend at three benefit concerts to raise money for the victims of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, and raise morale, too.

"It's everybody and anybody—people that you would never think would take the stage together are coming together for the first time," 'N Sync's Lance Bass said Tuesday.

Bass' group is performing at the "United We Stand" concert Sunday in Washington, an eight-hour marathon that also includes Jackson, the Backstreet Boys, Mariah Carey, Destiny's Child, Sean "Puff Daddy" Combs and others.

Tickets for the RFK Stadium event ranged from \$25 to \$75 and have sold out, officials said, raising approximately \$2 million. Parts of the show will likely be aired later on television.

Also on Sunday, McGraw, Sara Evans, Trisha Yearwood, Brooks & Dunn and other country stars take part in a two-and-a-half hour concert

at the 13,000-seat Gaylord Entertainment Center in Nashville, to be aired live on radio stations across the nation. Tickets range from \$25 to \$1,000, and are almost sold out.

"This is what our talent is, and our chance to make some money for these people and make a difference in what's going on," McGraw said.

The weekend concerts kick off Saturday with the "Concert for New York City" at Madison Square Garden.

Along with the Backstreet Boys and Destiny's Child, that event features McCartney, Bowie, Elton John, Eric Clapton, Billy Joel, U2's Bono, Marc Anthony and others.

Tickets for the five-hour show range from \$200 to \$5,000 and were still available.

Clear Channel Entertainment, which owns 135 entertainment venues and is the nation's dominant concert promoter, is producing or helping to produce all three concerts. Chief Operating Officer Steve Smith said they were relatively easy to pull together quickly.

"The artist community has been universally responsive to us," Smith said. "We have bands at all of these events that have turned their schedules upside down in order to be able to be there, if just for a few minutes."

The concerts come less than a month after the "America: A Tribute to Heroes" telethon, featuring performances by many top acts, raised approximately \$150 million.

Many smaller benefit concerts are also planned around the country: Bruce Springsteen is headlining a benefit performance Friday in New Jersey, for example, 'N Sync plans one next month in Miami, and the Grand Ole Opry plans a show in November.

Smith said there is no target figure for how much this weekend's concerts could raise.

"These events have been assembled in a matter of days, where stadium festivals like this would normally take months, so we're going to be happy with what we accomplish," he said.

AP

SM ADVANCE SCREENING
C I N E M A

The No. 1 Suspense Thriller in America



Michael Douglas

... I'll never tell

DON'T SAY A WORD

Invitational Press Screening on Oct. 19, 2001 7:30 pm
SM Megamall Cinema 1

MTRCB
PG13

Regular showing starts Oct. 31 at the SM CINEMAS.



JACKSON

Goldberg wins Mark Twain prize

COMEDIENNE Whoopi Goldberg made serious history for a funny reason, becoming the first woman to receive the Mark Twain Prize for American Humor.

About a dozen of the actress-comedian's friends, including Alan King, Chris Rock, Robin Williams and Billy Crystal, teased and saluted her at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts on Monday night.

"You are a legend and you know it," said Chris Tucker, co-star of the "Rush Hour" movies.

Goldberg, 45, ended the show by saying it "almost didn't happen."

She was concerned that it would be inappropriate to stage the event after last month's terrorist at-

tacks. But after making several phone calls, she decided to go through with it.

"We must pick ourselves up by our bootstraps and laugh—we have to," she said.

AP

KRIS AND TELL

Kris Aquino



Kris Aquino's column returns next week

POWER PLANT CINEMA

Rockwell Center, Makati City Tel. No: 8981-440-41

THIRTEEN DAYS - P 13
12:40, 3:40, 6:40, 9:40

THE BODY - P 13
12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00

AMERICAN PIE 2 - R 18
12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10, 11:10

AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS - P 13
11:00, 1:10, 3:25, 5:40, 7:55, 10:10

OSMOSIS JONES - GP
11:05, 1:20, 3:15, 5:20, 7:25, 9:30

AMERICAN PIE 2 - R 18
11:20, 1:30, 3:40, 5:50, 8:00, 10:10

Matinee, P80, Mon.-Fri., 11:00 am to 4:45 pm Screenings, Free Seating.

ARTFILM - GLORIETTA 4
NEXT ATTRACTION

MTRCB RATING: PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.

PHILIPPINE PREMIERE

The Best Film About The Impact of The Spanish War @ ARTFILM - Glorietta 4

In the tradition of "Cinema Paradiso," BUTTERFLY'S TONGUE explores the extraordinary relationship between a shy young boy, Moncho, and his incredibly compassionate teacher, Don Gregorio, who teaches Moncho to find his way in a world that is increasingly frightening. When the Spanish Civil War breaks out on July 18, 1936, everything for the boy and his hero will unexpectedly change.

BUTTERFLY'S TONGUE stars the Spanish legend FERNANDO FERNAN GOMEZ who has a career that spans five decades as an actor, novelist, poet, and director. In 1999, he won the Goya (Spanish Oscar) for Best Lead Actor for his latest film "The Grandfather." The film also stars MANUEL LOZANO, UXIA BLANCO, GONZALO MARTIN URIARTE, ALEXIS de los SANTOS and GUILLERMO TOLEDO. The film won Best Film at the Cleveland International Film Festival & Best Screenplay at the Goya Awards.

Directed by JOSÉ LUIS CUERDA and written by RAFAEL AZCONA, BUTTERFLY'S TONGUE is based upon the MANUEL RIVAS novel Quo Mo Quieres, Amor?

Language: Spanish with English subtitles

AYALA CINEMAS

Art Film GLORIETTA 4
Your Alternative Cinema

SKYFILMS

present

A ROMANTIC COMEDY ABOUT A TALE OF FAMILIAL SEXUAL INTRIGUE



MTRCB Rating: RESTRICTED (R)

STRICTLY FOR ADULTS; No one below 18 yrs. of age may be admitted.

stuart TOWNSEND frances O'CONNOR charlotte BRADLEY & kate HUDSON
He's the most outrageous secret three sisters ever kept... from each other.

about Adam

A Romantic Comedy About A Tale Of Familial Sexual Intrigue

Lucy Owens has terrible luck in love. While doing her routine of singing torch songs, waiting tables, and complaining about her love life, she meets Adam. The two exchange just one look and Lucy is ready to marry him. However, Adam proves to be unpredictable as he sets out to date Lucy's sisters, Alice and Laura. A waitress falls for a handsome customer who seduces her, her two sisters, her brother, and her brother's girlfriend.

Featured at the Sundance Film Festival.

NOW SHOWING

Only at ARTFILM - GLORIETTA 4 CINEMAS

MTRCB RATING: R RESTRICTED STRICTLY FOR ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted

NOW SHOWING

WARNING:
DUE TO THE HIGHLY SENSITIVE AND DELICATE THEME OF THIS MOVIE, MINORS ARE STRICTLY PROHIBITED.

naked nights
malaya pa ang umaga
aya medel and gerald madrid
sheila ysrael • pinky amador
allen dizon • pamela ortiz
and stella l.

STRICTLY FOR ADULTS ONLY!

WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY JOVEN M. TAN
FET FILMS INTERNATIONAL

OPENS OCTOBER 24!

MTRCB R-18 Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.

DENZEL WASHINGTON
ETHAN HAWKE

TRAINING DAY

THE ONLY THING MORE DANGEROUS THAN THE LINE BEING CHOSSE IS THE COP WHO WILL CROSS IT.

OPENS OCTOBER 24!

MTRCB PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

REESE WITHERSPOON

LEGALLY blonde

This year go blond!

DISTRIBUTED BY TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX FILM CORPORATION

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picture
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OCTOBER 19, 2001

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BUSINESS

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ CORRIE S. NARISMA, Assistant Editor

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Apec: Economic downturn may last longer

SHANGHAI—The global economic downturn may intensify after last month's terrorist attacks, making it harder for struggling Asia-Pacific countries to recover from weak investment and consumer confidence, an Apec study warned yesterday.

Nearly all 21 economies of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) forum expect slower economic growth in 2001 and have trimmed their gross domestic product (GDP) forecasts significantly, the report by the grouping's economic committee said.

With global economic growth in 2002 expected to rebound to 3.5 percent from 2.6 percent this year, the Apec economies can recover gradually but there are downside risks, especially after the Sept. 11 terror attacks on the United States. "This could result in a much deeper and protracted global downturn, specially if it is also associated with lingering structural weaknesses in Japan and some economies in the euro area," warned the Apec Economic Outlook released at the forum's annual talks in Shanghai. The downside risks could stem

from over-investment during recent boom years and a further weakening of equity markets in major industrialized economies, accompanied by sharp falls in investment and private consumption.

Slowing growth was also likely to add to pressure on the corporate sectors and financial systems, taking a much bigger toll on business and consumer confidence, the report said.

The average GDP growth of Apec economies jumped to 4.1 percent in 2000, on the back of surging exports, from 3.6 percent the previous year. No overall Apec

forecast for this year was given in the report.

The Apec report cited Malaysia, South Korea, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, the Philippines and Mexico as economies that are being particularly hard hit, due to falling exports of electronics and IT products to fellow Apec member, the US.

Other Apec economies are Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Russia and Vietnam.

The report also warned that the ability of Apec member economies

to implement expansionary fiscal policies to counter the downturn was going to become increasingly constrained by their deteriorating financial positions.

Ten of the 21 Apec economies have budget deficits, with many having to resort to fiscal stimuli to jumpstart their economies after the 1997-1998 financial crisis which plunged most of Asia into recession.

Currency depreciation offered another avenue for export-driven nations to enhance competitiveness and contain the economic slowdown, but the Apec report cautioned

that this could damage financial stability.

The report also noted unemployment picking up again in the region and "a common concern is how to create more demand to absorb the relatively abundant manpower."

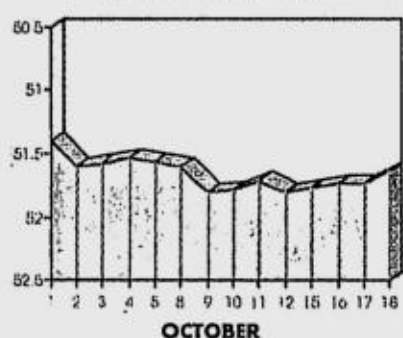
Due to the generally subdued inflation prevailing in the region in the slowdown, there was room for measures such as interest rate cuts to counter falling GDP growth, it said.

Many of the economies have emulated the US in slashing rates this year. **AFP**

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Peso-Dollar Rate

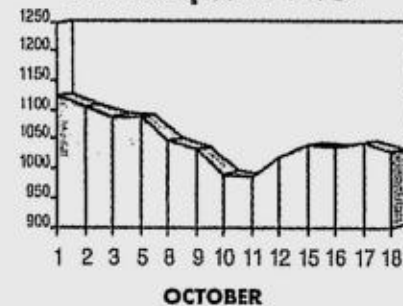
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 As of 5 p.m., Oct. 18, 2001

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STOCK MARKET

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B4)

Shares end lower

SHARES finished lower yesterday, pressured by the sell-off in Wall Street Wednesday and growing concern over the debt woes of listed companies, traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index closed down 14.61 points, or 1.4 percent, at 1028.40, after rising 0.7 percent Wednesday.

The disappointing budget deficit report released by the government Wednesday, the rising non-performing loan ratio of banks and spreading anthrax scare also contributed to shares' decline, traders said.

"Probably some investors were just looking for a signal to sell, which was the US market's fall last night," said KGI Securities vice president Fitzgerald Aclan. **AP**

BSP keeps rates steady

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas decided to keep its overnight interest rates unchanged at its weekly policy-making Monetary Board meeting yesterday.

"The market's stable, why change? Interest rate levels are at historic lows so we should leave it at that," BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura told reporters.

The overnight borrowing rate is at 8.75 percent and the lending rate at 11 percent.

"We feel that interest rate differentials with the US are appropriate, but what's more important is that relative to inflation, interest rate levels are also appropriate," he said. **Reuters**

Revision of 2002 targets proposed

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas is pushing for a second revision in next year's economic growth targets to reflect a more accurate impact of recent developments, including the P30 daily wage increase.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said he was most concerned about the inflation and export targets for next year.

A BSP official had explained that for every percentage point increase in wages, inflation would increase by a quarter of a percentage point. A P30 daily wage hike would mean a 12 percent increase over the current P250 daily wage.

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Talks on MRT-3 extension collapse; DOTC sets auction

BY ABIGAIL L. HO

THE DEPARTMENT OF Transportation and Communications has formally ended negotiations to extend the Metro Rail Transit-3 project due to disagreements with Metro Rail Transit Corp.

Transportation Undersecretary Wilfredo Trinidad told the INQUIRER yesterday that the DOTC would place the project on the auction bloc after MRT-3 failed to come up with a draft agreement on Oct. 15.

"But we're still open to them (MRTC). In fact, they're still trying to catch up. They're already drafting the

contract and submitting some documents. But we've already written them a letter that we're formally cutting off negotiations with them," he said.

Trinidad said President Macapagal-Arroyo herself was already pressuring the transportation department to get a contractor for the project.

"We don't want to be held hostage by this. What if they delayed and delayed? The President would get angry," he said.

Trinidad revealed that the government and MRTC failed to settle differences over the kind of rolling stocks or coaches to use for the planned 5.1-kilometer extension of

the MRT railways.

"They want something different from the ones we already have. If they would agree to use light rail vehicles with specifications that are at least compatible to the existing ones, then that would be fine with us," he said.

Trinidad suggested that MRTC undertake the civil works aspect of the project and just bid out the rolling stock side of it.

"That would be more advantageous to the government, as we would be able to get the one with the lowest offer," he said.

Trinidad said another stumbling block was the MRTC's insistence on

having a share of the revenues even if the rolling stocks would be auctioned off to another contractor.

"That can't be. We could be thrown in prison if we allowed that," he said.

Trinidad said the DOTC would still be "responding to their (MRTC's) move" as they continued to submit last-minute revisions to their proposal, but preparations for bidding would already be done next week.

"We'll rush all documents needed for the bidding. We would also be preparing invitations for it. We can't just have a bidding process. We have to prepare a lot of things," he said.

Real estate exposure of thrift banks up 15%

BY CLARISSA B. BATINO

THE EXPOSURE of the country's more than 100 thrift banks to real estate rose 15 percent to P34.3 billion in June, data from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas has shown.

With this first-half surge, the ratio of real estate loans to the total loan portfolios of thrift banks went up to 24.2 percent as of June from 22.6 percent a year earlier. The ratio, however, was still lower compared with the first quarter's 24.8 percent.

The central bank has been closely monitoring the volume of real estate loans extended by the

banking system.

Over the last two months, the country's top banks have seen a growing number of defaults on loans used to acquire or develop properties, raising red flags that the BSP has taken notice of.

BSP records placed the total loan portfolio of the country's savings and mortgage banks, private development banks, and stock savings and loan associations at P141.93 billion as of June, up by 7.4 percent year-on-year.

Out of the total exposure of these banks to real estate, about P4.14 billion were past due as of June from P3.83 billion a year earlier.

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Hottick seen delaying bidding for NSC plant

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

AFTER reluctantly returning to the negotiating table for the reopening of National Steel Corp., Hottick Investment Ltd.-Renong Bhd. is apparently in no rush to join the evaluation committee to choose a long-term lessor for the idle plant of the steel giant.

Hottick-Renong representatives Ibrahim Bidn and Emiliano Napa informed the NSC evaluation committee that they could not attend the

committee's formal reconstitution today. Bidn claimed that the invitation was given on very short notice while Napa would not attend the meeting on his own.

The committee could not proceed with the reconstitution without the Hottick-Renong representatives. While the committee has opted to reschedule the meeting on Oct. 23 to coincide with the scheduled acceptance of lease proposals for NSC facilities, it remains to be seen whether the Hottick-Renong representatives would attend

Tuesday's bidding.

This latest move by Hottick-Renong has raised serious doubts on the sincerity of the Malaysians to join the process following their unilateral withdrawal from the process to pursue a previous deal with Allengoal. It was forced to go back to the committee and participate in the bidding following an order from Pengurusan Danaharta Nasional Bhd., Malaysia's debt rehabilitation agency that has taken over Hottick-Renong's assets due to serious

financial problems.

Earlier, Hottick-Renong asked the committee to adopt more realistic terms in the selection of a long-term leaseholder in NSC and invite Allengoal in the bidding. The committee has been criticized for demanding a cash and guarantee bond worth P1 billion from the potential bidders, which NSC's labor union has criticized as unreasonable because it was grossly disproportionate to the scope of the proposed lease undertaking.

Mindanao secures P19-B investments

DAVAO CITY—The 10th Mindanao Business Conference in Cotabato City said it generated a total of P19.5 billion in investments in Mindanao last month.

The group reported that out of 19 joint-venture agreements that local businessmen signed with their foreign partners from Malaysia and Indonesia, more than half, with investments valued at P2.5 billion, were aimed at promoting the palm oil industry by rehabilitating and cultivating more plantations and putting up nurseries and milling facilities.

Other contracts focus on infusing some P7.5 billion to widen Islamic banking operations in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, developing "Takaful" (Islamic insurance) in the country, building houses and hotels, and putting up fruit orchards in Maguindano and tea farms in Misamis Oriental.

Another P2.5 billion worth of development projects are still being studied. These include putting up palm oil plantations and processing plants in Magpet and President Roxas towns in North Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat in Maguindano and Bukidnon.

"The billions worth of investments generated during the 10th Mindanao Business Conference clearly showed that foreign entities are interested in pouring capital in Mindanao despite the perception that Mindanao is not a safe place to invest in," conference director Antonio Santos said in a statement. Joselle Badilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Customs steps up smuggling drive

THE BUREAU of Customs has stepped up its campaign against the importation and sale of used clothes and smuggling through "balikbayan boxes" and customs bonded warehouse to address concerns by textile and apparel makers.

Customs Commissioner Titus Villanueva told the Federation of Philippine Textile Industries that the customs bureau would strictly impose the government's ban on the importation of used clothing.

The Fopti has been alarmed by the mushrooming of retail stores peddling used clothing in the country, which poses unfair competition to local textile manufacturers and apparel makers.

Villanueva said customs operatives were authorized to confiscate any used clothing displayed by any store, shop or establishment.

The BOC is also coordinating with the Department of Social Welfare and Development to make sure that used clothes imported into the country for charity will not be sold by unscrupulous traders, he added.

Villanueva said the customs bureau would also

strictly monitor the shipment of "balikbayan boxes"—packages sent to the country by Filipinos living and working abroad.

The Fopti believes these boxes are being used by smugglers to bring used clothing in commercial quantity into the country.

Villanueva said the customs bureau would exercise its "visatorial powers" under the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines to inspect stores and establishments suspected of selling smuggled goods.

On the Fopti's complaint that customs bonded warehouses were being used as smuggling points, Villanueva said the BOC formed a new task force that would comb through the books of operators importing textiles as raw materials.

The task force will determine whether the operators are reexporting their textile imports and not diverting them to the local market, he said.

The Fopti said the abuse of duty-free privileges of bonded warehouses was depriving the government of its revenues and posing unfair competition to domestic industries. Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

Lucio Tan firm eyes RFM stake

BY CHRISTINE A. GAYLICAN

FOREMOST Farms Inc., a company controlled by tobacco tycoon Lucio Tan, said yesterday it would venture into meat processing and was considering acquiring a stake in RFM Corp.

Company officials said Foremost Farms were laying out its options to cope with the loss of its largest customer, Purefoods-Hormel Co., which recently merged its operations with San Miguel Corp.

San Miguel already has its own meat processing company, Monterey Foods Corp.

"We are still finalizing plans but definitely we will go into meat processing and canning by next year," Foremost Farms assistant sales manager Richie Tiu told reporters.

Tiu said Foremost Farms was conducting feasibility studies on what would be more lucrative: invest in a new meat processing plant or acquire a major stake in existing meat processing firms like RFM.

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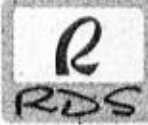
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Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Thursday, October 18, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.5	4.8	4.5	4.6	17,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	46	46.5	45.5	46	410,800
China Banking Corp.	500	530	500	530	25,030
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	18	18	17.25	17.5	210,100
First E-Bank Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	55,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	180	181	178	179	29,160
Philippine National Bank	48	48.5	47.5	48.5	30,400
Phil. Savings Bank	29	29	29	29	1,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	15.5	15.5	15.5	15.5	700
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Filinvest Fund Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	90,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	241	241	241	241	300
Manulife Financial Corp.	1290	1290	1290	1290	1,140
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1070	1080	1070	1080	9,280

COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	25	25	25	25	4,000
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	40,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	590	590	590	590	690
Liberty Telecom Holdings	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	20,000
Pitell	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	10,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	380	382.5	380	380	97,630
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.4	0.46	0.4	0.46	208,760,000
	0.018	0.018	0.017	0.017	12,500,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	21.75	21.75	21.75	21.75	15,900
Manila Electric Co. B	33	33.5	32.5	33	803,000
Petron Corp.	1.16	1.18	1.12	1.18	3,749,000
Transportation Services					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.28	1.32	1.28	1.32	2,719,000
Kapell Phils. Marine Inc.	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.4	1,020,000
William, Gothong & Aboliz	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	20,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Alsons Cement Corp.	0.22	0.23	0.22	0.23	180,000
Engineering Equilo. Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	50,000
Republic Cement Corp.	1	1	1	1	1,240,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	5,260,000

FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.08	2.08	2.08	2.08	440,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.2	5.2	4.7	4.95	491,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	11	11.25	11	11.25	48,000
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	24.75	24.75	24.75	24.75	1,000
RFM Corp.	1.92	1.92	1.88	1.88	898,000
San Miguel Corp. A	39.5	39.5	39.5	39.5	222,200
San Miguel Corp. B	44	44	43.5	44	219,000
Vitarish Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	280,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	5.2	5.3	5.2	5.3	2,383,000
Aboliz Equity Ventures	1.3	1.32	1.3	1.32	1,075,000
AjoNet Holdings Inc.	0.56	0.58	0.58	0.58	110,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	170,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	13,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.44	1.5	95,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.11	0.14	0.11	0.14	20,000
Baconan Cons Indus Inc.	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.8	0.8	0.75	0.78	8,820,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	800,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp	23.5	24	23.5	24	207,100
Guoco Holdings (Phila.)	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	850,000
Jonas Inc.	6.1	6.1	6	6	8,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.28	1.28	1.28	1.28	514,000
Macrosela Corp.	0.83	0.85	0.83	0.85	110,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.59	0.59	0.58	0.59	310,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.21	0.215	0.21	0.215	550,000
Muslo Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	100,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	150,000
Tanduy Holdings Inc.	4.1	4.1	4	4	24,000
Univido Holdings Inc.	0.11	0.11	0.1	0.105	2,360,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.2	0.24	0.2	0.24	720,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	750,000
Matsushita Elec Phil Corp.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	198,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	10,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.0675	0.0675	0.0675	0.0675	10,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	100,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	10	10	10	10	299,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SER VICE					
Belle Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	90,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	230,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	25	26.5	25	26.5	70,100
DMCI Holdings Inc. - Pref.	520	520	520	520	800
PLDT 10% Pref Series A	10	10	10	10	2,000
Philweb.Com Inc. - Warrants	0.005	0.0055	0.005	0.0055	7,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.25	4.3	4.2	4.25	7,859,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	50,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	20,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.235	0.24	0.235	0.24	700,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	250,000
Fillinvest Land Inc.	1.24	1.26	1.22	1.24	3,408,000
City & Land Developers	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.3	100,000
SM Development Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	20,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.4	5.7	5.3	5.6	3,507,000
Urbancorp Realty Dev. Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	20,000
MINING					
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	4,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	1,000
Itoyon-Suyoc Mines A	0.025	0.025	0.023	0.023	75,000,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	100,000
Omico Corporation	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	30,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.016	0.017	0.016	0.017	3,000,000
Phillex Mining Corp. A	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	20,000
Phillex Mining Corp. B	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	100,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.015	0.015	0.014	0.014	3,000,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	200,000
SHARES					
Banks & Fin Svc	1,321,420				57,829,860.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	78,286,500				157,677,715.00
PRO	15,651,000				51,517,210.00
Mining	70,300,000				813,800.00
OIL	21,180,000				112,800.00
GRAND TOTALS	186,738,920				267,951,485.00
AVERAGES					
Banks & Fin Svc	410.66				DOWN 6.18
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,453.06				DOW 18.90
PRO	429.37				DOWN 6.97
Mining	1,015.97				DOWN 20.20
OIL	1.41				UP 0.02
All Shares Index	646.55				DOWN 15.56
Composite	1,028.40				DOWN 14.81
NO. OF ADVANCES: 9; NO. OF DECLINES: 45; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 30; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 84; NO. OF TRADES: 1,376					

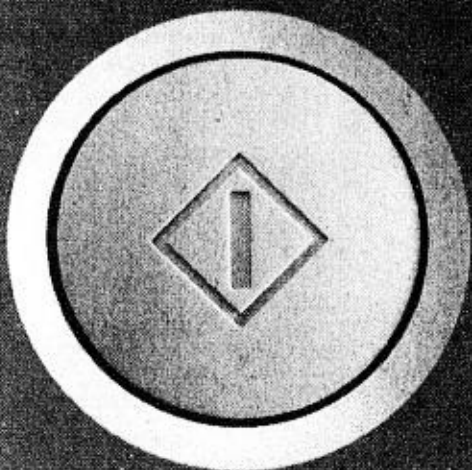
CURRENCIES

Oct. 18, 2001	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US\$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.106317	1.000000	51.7700
Japan	Yen	0.009129	0.008252	0.4272
United Kingdom	Pound	1.601726	1.447800	74.9526
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.142018	0.128370	6.6457
Switzerland	Franc	0.675366	0.610463	31.6037
Canada	Dollar	0.705019	0.637267	32.9913
Singapore	Dollar	0.609541	0.550964	28.5234
Australia	Dollar	0.568509	0.513875	26.6033
Bahrain	Dinar	2.934684	2.652661	137.3283
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.295807	0.267380	13.8423
Brunei	Dollar	0.607867	0.549451	28.4451
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000111	0.000100	0.0052
Thailand	Baht	0.024749	0.022371	1.1581
UAE	Dirham	0.301284	0.272331	14.0986
Korea	Won	0.000854	0.000772	0.0400
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.903900	46.7949
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.462157	23.9259
France	Franc	0.152450	0.137799	7.1339
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.410172	21.2346
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.065889	3.4007
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.022407	1.1600
Italy	Lire	0.000517	0.000467	0.0242
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.152025	7.8703
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004509	0.2334
Spain	Peseta	0.006011	0.005433	0.2813
Luxembourg	Franc	0.024789	0.022407	1.1600
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.147716	59.4173

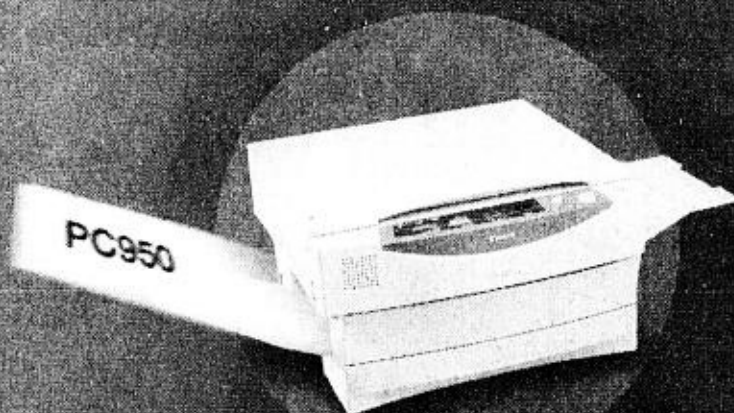
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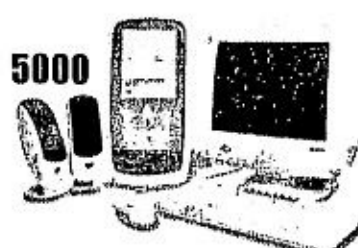
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DISCLOSURES

PHILIPPINE Telegraph and Telephone Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Nov. 29, 3 p.m. at the Ballroom I of Dusit Hotel Nikko, Makati City. Only stockholders as of Oct. 19 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

RIZAL Commercial Banking Corp. will hold its special stockholders' meeting on Nov. 26, 4 p.m. at the 47/F Executive Lounge, Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza in Makati City. Stockholders as of Oct. 25 will be entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

THE LISTING of Macondray Plastic Inc.'s additional 76.3 million common shares with a par value of P1 each to cover its 155-percent stock dividend declaration was set for Oct. 22. Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

San Miguel ends audit of Cosmos

BY DORIS C. DURLAO

A JOINT venture led by beer giant San Miguel Corp. has completed due diligence audit on Cosmos Bottling Corp., the soft drink unit of food conglomerate RFM Corp. that San Miguel had committed to buy in August.

"SMC/Coke have completed its due diligence exercise. This is part of the process prior to the finalization and signing of the share purchase agreement," RFM vice president Ramon Lopez said in a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange.

But while the audit process has been completed, San Miguel said it had not yet reached an agreement with RFM for the final sale price of Cosmos.

The agreement was supposed to be signed in September.

"The company is in ongoing discussions with

RFM. The negotiations are over the results of the due diligence and price adjustment. No agreement has been reached," said San Miguel corporate secretary Francis Jardeleza.

San Miguel, prior to the audit, initially agreed to purchase 83.2 percent of Cosmos, the country's second largest firm, for P15 billion through the San Miguel/Coke joint venture, Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc.

Industry sources said San Miguel was negotiating for a lower price.

A person familiar with the matter said RFM was looking for other options should talks with San Miguel collapse.

San Miguel shares opened P1 lower at P38.50 yesterday, while its B shares, which are open to foreigners, was not yet traded. It ended at P44 on Wednesday.

RFM finished at P1.88 on Wednesday, while Cosmos closed at P4.95. Both shares were not yet traded on Thursday.

Oil prices seen down P1.31 in Nov.

BY RONNEL W. DOMINGO

MOTORISTS are in for an early Christmas as oil prices are expected to go down by an average P1.32 a liter next month.

In a news briefing on Wednesday, Consumer and Oil Price Watch chair Raul

Concepcion said the November reduction was expected as the prices of crude in the world market had stabilized to a record low of \$20 a barrel.

"(This happened despite) the start of the bombings in Afghanistan nine days ago," he said in a news briefing.

As of Oct. 15, the price of Dubai crude stood at an average \$20.02 a barrel, down from September's \$24.12 a barrel.

The peso, meanwhile, depreciated by 35 centavos from 51.27 to a dollar last month to 51.62 by mid-October.

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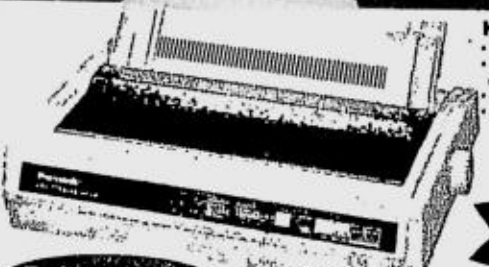
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It takes a teacher's son: Raul Roco

LABOR-MANAGEMENT relations in the government is an area that has not been given much attention.

Of all forms of oppression directed at workers, none perhaps can equal the injustice committed against us in the teaching profession. For so long and so widespread, we have always been exploited, harassed, neglected, cheated and hoodwinked by so many tormentors.

The greatest irony of it all is that if you are in public schools, your most flagrant tormentor is none other than the Department of Education, Culture and Sports itself, the government arm precisely intended to look after your welfare. That's the bad news. The good news is that our days of anguish may soon be over. Education Secretary Raul Roco is a teacher's son. I met him in Baguio last week in the PMPA's National Conference, and we talked.

I am a teacher's son, too, but all I can do is recall the 40 years of difficulties my parents had to suffer teaching in mountain barangays in Cebu. The school administrators then were more pre-occupied with constructing school buildings, changing textbooks every year, purchasing fancy cars and catering to the wishes of contractors, suppliers and lending agencies who all turned DECS into a den of corruption. No one minded the poor teachers. They had to struggle in silent pains alone and unaided.

Low teachers' morale

Of all the Filipino workers' pains, sufferings and broken dreams, it is the teachers' hardships and frustrations that create the most serious damage. When teachers are disgruntled, they produce half-baked, miseducated and misguided youth. Ultimately, the whole nation is the loser. If we continue to neglect the teacher, we continue to neglect the future.

This is a question of priority. If we give more importance to infrastructure and technology and neglect human resources, this country will someday have megacities with world-class facilities run by morons and drug addicts. If you think I'm exaggerating, I challenge you to run a survey among teachers in both rural and urban areas and measure their degree of disillusionment as they grapple with the hardships of low pay, lack of school supplies, tyrannical supervisors, hungry pupils, dilapidated classrooms and pressures to do non-school activities.

Overworked, overexploited

Teachers write their lesson plans and check test papers at night during hours that should be devoted to molding their own children. They prepare their own teaching materials using their own resources, and they do these on weekends, which should have been devoted to building a sound family life. Teachers have to decorate their own classrooms to cater to the whims of their demanding principals. They have to undertake school ground improvement and construct perimeter fences, stages and other school infrastructures using their own funds because the education department has no budget and parents are too poor to pitch in. Teachers are expected to sell Boy Scout and Girl Scout stamps, Red Cross tickets and fund their own

LABOR MANAGEMENT FORUM

Josephus B. Jimenez



educational tours.

Underpaid, neglected

How much does a public school teacher earn a month? Deduct from that the GSIS premium, Philhealth dues, Pag-ibig contribution and deductions from various loans. Deduct from his pittance pay the daily fares, *baon* and debts to school usurers. There is always a 5-6 usurer lurking in school campus, if not the principal's wife, the mayor's daughter or the DECS payroll master himself.

Does anyone worry about the health of teachers? If a poor mentor collapses in utter fatigue and lack of proper nutrition, is there a school ambulance to bring her to the hospital? If a teacher dies on election day due to violence, are her heirs and dependents covered by adequate insurance? Why are teachers suffering from PTB, ulcer of the stomach and cardio-pulmonary diseases? Are these not work-related? Are the State Insurance Fund coverages enough?

Cheated, defrauded

When the teachers' pay slips reflect deductions for loans never taken, for items never authorized, is there a DECS representative who will explain why and assure that the matter will soon be rectified? When a district supervisor sells a promotion or exact money for a more favorable teaching assignment, is there anything the teacher can do given the awesome powers of the administrators? When a division superintendent subjects a teacher to sexual harassment, can the teacher be heard by an unbiased tribunal? Is DECS looking into the shenanigans of petty tyrants?

When a principal harasses a teacher at the instigation of the mayor for political reasons, can the teacher complain? If he does, will somebody help her against the tremendous resources of her adversaries?

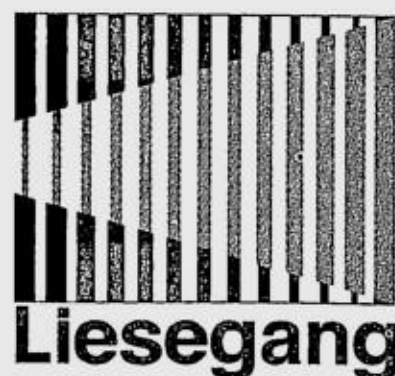
Roco cares

Nobody would care, if you are in the cozy offices of DECS, with world-class facilities and fancy cars. Nobody would care about what is happening to the poor classroom teacher in Langin, Ronda, Cebu or in Colawin, Argao. They just have to take care of themselves. They have to beg, borrow, go to the usurers or mortgage their home. DECS didn't care. But that's the bad news. The good news is that Raul is here—and Roco truly cares.

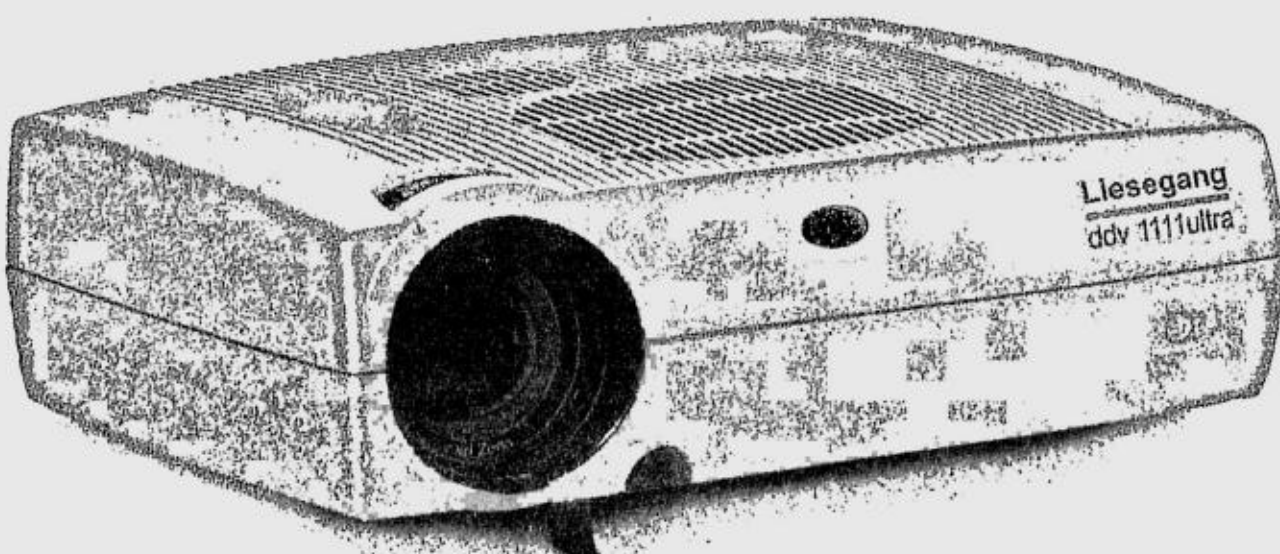
Perhaps it is only now that we have an education secretary who is a son of a teacher, one who actually witnessed the exploitation, neglect and injustice committed against his mother. A son who saw how his mother worked long hours to do a great job teaching the youth in grand fashion no matter how underpaid and overworked. Perhaps it is only now that we have a DECS official who truly cares. For it takes a teacher's son to truly understand.

(For comments, you can reach the writer at the following e-mail address: josephus.jimenez@ncmi.com.ph)

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AGRILINK 2001

M e s s a g e s

Greetings and warm welcome to all the participants and visitors of AGRILINK 2001 and FOODLINK 2001.

The holding of this important annual event augurs well in stimulating interest for our local agriculture. Its success in the past is indicative of the vast potential of the country's food and agricultural sectors and the dynamism of our young Filipino market. It is in this gathering that industries raring to modernize and go global are showcased and where a young market whose needs are as many and as varied as the number of its young population is reflected with the proliferation of diverse products and services.

Combined, these facets offer a big attraction and a bright prospect to local and foreign players who can forge partnerships in developing our still budding food and agriculture industries and supply needs of our large consumer base. In fact, the agribusiness sector, with its infrastructure and technology backlog, is itself a huge market for foreign firms involved in the manufacture and supply of high-tech capital equipment and system development products and services.

But more than the prospect of expanding their market reaches in the Philippines and the rest of ASEAN region is the opportunity to be a pioneering partner in the country's agricultural modernization. In this respect, we welcome the involvement of everyone in this undertaking to help us supply the capital requirement, create jobs, raise the country's farm productivity and make our agri-exports globally competitive.

With the projection that the region will be an important supplier of the world's food and agricultural requirements in the not-so-distant future, we are doing our best to establish a niche for Philippine produce. We therefore invite all the exhibitors to become not just a marketer but a major player in the Philippine agri-business.

I wish the success of this endeavor and more power to all of you!

Glenn Macapagal-Arroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President, Republic of the Philippines

I wish to extend my warmest felicitations to the participants, exhibitors, sponsors and organizers of the 8th International Trade Exhibition and Conference, dubbed as AGRILINK 2001.

The Department of Agriculture takes pride in co-sponsoring this annual event which highlights our continuing partnership with the private sector to jointly promote and market our farm and fishery products here and abroad.

AGRILINK 2001 is indeed a fitting venue, where the country's agribusiness industry stakeholders meet their counterparts from the rest of the world, sharing technological breakthroughs, and broadening market linkages and relationships.

We therefore look forward to a productive and successful exhibit and conference. Congratulations and more power! Mabuhay ang AGRILINK 2001!

Leonardo Q. Montemayor
LEONARDO Q. MONTEMAYOR
Secretary, Department of Agriculture

A warm welcome to all exhibitors, participants and visitors to AGRILINK 2001.

San Miguel Corporation, through two of its strategic business units -- B-MEG and PUREBLEND -- is glad to be a key participant in AGRILINK 2001.

This year is an exciting time for the Feeds Business because Philippine agriculture is the one promising area that will strengthen the economy.

Since its inception, the Feeds Business has given due recognition to the socio-economic potentials in the countryside. Thus, for years, we have been running livelihood seminars and animal care missions to provide our rural folks with skills and know-how in animal raising.

AGRILINK is a venue to showcase the country's farm produce and the current technologies that help make these happen. It also gives us a perspective on what global prospects are available to provide the basis for further agricultural gains.

San Miguel's traditional focus on agriculture was one of the considerations in our decision to acquire Pure Foods Corporation.

San Miguel Corporation will sustain its efforts so that AGRILINK continues to be an effective instrument for strengthening Philippine agriculture.

Eduardo M. Gujuangco
EDUARDO M. GUJUANGCO
Chairman & Chief Executive Officer
San Miguel Corporation

AGRILINK 2001 ... a pure blend of agri sector's key players: from producers to input suppliers and worldwide buyers

AGRILINK resulted from a common observation by movers and shakers in the agricultural sector -- professionals, civic leaders and agriculture consultants: that the country's economic growth derives its momentum from agricultural development.

Hence, the Foundation for Resource Linkage and Development Inc (FRLD), an NGO, was formed to identify and implement programs that will enhance government initiatives and directions in the agribusiness sector.

According to Mr. Antonio Rocas, FRLD President: "Stated simply, our mission is to establish linkages among farm producers, raw material suppliers and buyers from all over, so that our local farmers are given a fair market chance to survive and flourish in the farm-to-market chain. Among the studies we've made, the most important and hardest thing to put across our growers is to deliver what the market

wants, and not just what they produce by happenstance."

"A whole change of orientation has to be made. One that goes beyond 'bahala na', to one which is: 'what will delight the buyer?'. Take packaging, as an example. The Philippines produces the world's best mangoes. But our producers pack them into crates showing big, fat mangoes on top, with the size getting smaller as you dig deeper into the box. This is unacceptable to the world market. Clearly, the name of the game is education, education, education."

Though the official birth of AGRILINK Exhibitions started with Piglink 94, the trade show has since grown into a gathering of the country's progressive farmers, hog raisers, breeders and sellers, including other food production professionals. Each year, the attendance grows ever larger and many have

come to rely on AGRILINK when looking for suppliers of raw materials and equipment, knowledge and know-how on the latest farm and breeding technologies and techniques and other industry-relevant information.

As agri business goes global and increasingly liberalized, AGRILINK has likewise become the premier venue for industry leaders to discuss ways of improving the competitiveness and productivity of local agriculture.

With greater support pouring in from government and private sectors, AGRILINK hopes to create the right environment for exhibitors and visitors alike, the results of which they hope to filter down to the grassroots all over the Philippines.

Two success stories

Most urban folk think countryside business is difficult. But with an adventurous spirit, stamina and a lot of persistence, there's money to be made in the countryside as the following stories show. Common to these successful rural entrepreneurs are certain qualities such as partnering with a reliable company for their inputs, in this case, PureBlend Feeds, and focus on growing related businesses, e.g. livestock raising and feeds dealerships. Also, they started small to gain first-hand knowledge and a feel of the business. For many, a few months is all it took for them to see the fruit of their efforts pay off. Read on and take some inspiration from these true-to-life stories:

Ducks and their equivalent golden eggs ...

He was from your typical poor family. Think of the hardships of a young tricycle driver, student worker and family breadwinner at age 12, and you have a picture of Danny "Boy" Baylon's beginnings.

Yet this young man remained intrepid in the face of limited resources and help. What he had plenty of was ambition and a vision to rise above his station and make for his family a better life. And so he did.

With his job as a security guard-cum-balut vendor whilst a college student, he saved just enough to start a small business in his hometown in Candaba after he got his bachelor's degree.

His first venture in fish and rice trading brought him mediocre gains, and so he decided to try his hand in ducks.

Though at first his ducks didn't lay the proverbial golden eggs, Baylon's brood nevertheless brought him a near-equivalent.

With an initial investment of P25,000 in 470 ready-to-lay ducks, he recovered his capital and made a hefty P50,000 profit in just two growing cycles or 90 days.

This happy turnaround emboldened him to enlarge his flock to 1,000 then 2,000, eventually to 25,000 ducks in a few years.

As money creates more money, Boy became more entrepreneurial and began bringing home 300 sacks of duck feeds which he sold to other duck raisers in his hometown.

To no one's surprise, Boy naturally became a distributor of the foremost duck feeds brand -- PureBlend. Thus it became that Boy's enterprising years started to pay off more than handsomely. Currently, Boy supplies around 200 duck raisers in his area, chalking up a whopping 40,000 sacks a month.

It's a long way from his tricycle days, but Boy believes, anyone with enough fire in his belly and persistent stamina to fuel his dreams, will soon get near enough to Boy's achievements. And who knows, maybe even do better.

Harvesting success in those cages

What are practicing doctors doing amongst the fishes in Lemery, Batangas? Not mending them back to health but growing them into assets.

With hardly any experience, Dr. Vicky Bautista and her husband were enticed into

financing a couple of tilapia cages. An uncooperative weather and a slew of unexpected downturns both husband and wife lost P100,000 in their first harvest. But that was a forgettable half-decade ago.

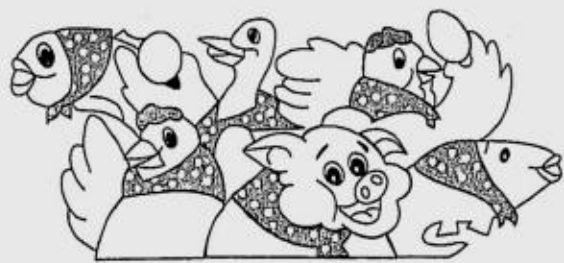
The thing to remember is that our enterprising lady doctor is not one to retreat in the face of failure. She knows a good challenge when she meets one. What is certain is that she got hooked on fish farming that, unknown to her husband, she put money into 17 more cages.

A keen sense of timing -- a mark of astute businessmen -- other than to be in the right place at the right time. And for our good Dr. Bautista, her timing could not have been better as when she went full blast into fish farming.

In that same year, PureBlend Bangus and Tilapia Feeds launched into the market. Dr. Bautista signed on as one of PureBlend's dealers. Now she had an excellent match: the right feed for her fish; and a new business to boot.

Soon, she was delivering PureBlend not just to her fish cages but to all her friends' and partners' as well in towns surrounding Taal Lake and across to the island crater. Five years later, she is looked up to as an authority on Tilapia breeding, even a Tilapia magnate, as some friends would rib her.

From fewer than twenty in less than five years, Dr. Bautista now oversees a total of 450 fish cages, each one measuring a hundred square meters, and by herself, has become one of PureBlend's biggest business partners.



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San Miguel's PureBlend poised for global competitiveness in Agri-Business via AGRILINK 2001

With the recent acquisition of Pure Foods Corporation, San Miguel Corporation adds to its portfolio yet another premium feeds brand—PureBlend.

Launched four years ago, PureBlend has performed strongly in the market and is proving to be an important contributor to the growth of the country's vital poultry and livestock industries.

PureBlend first produced poultry and livestock feeds, focusing on this market niche in order to build consumer confidence on the brand. Market penetration efforts involved going into unserved areas to introduce animal raisers to the PureBlend brand of feeds and exposing them to the benefits of the product.

With strong market acceptance for the brand and seeing a need in other segments of the industry, PureBlend expanded its line of products to include quality hog and fish feeds.

To broaden its presence in the market, PureBlend introduced a second line of animal feeds called PBXcellent. The brand became the company's entry level feeds in Luzon targeted to backyard and medium scale hog raisers as well as poultry operators.

In the Visayas and Mindanao, the need for a more affordable quality feed brand became apparent. Thus was born Jumbo Hog Feeds in mash form, the feed format preferred by farmers eager to shift from the old, traditional methods of hog raising.

Jumbo's mix of quality and affordability, coupled with aggressive promotions and seminars, resulted in substantial market share in the first three years of the brand's introduction.

PureBlend's adherence to quality standards in the production of its feed products was recognized last year

Earning an ISO Certification is a mark of highly systematized companies, where each step in their production process is documented to conform to international standards.



when it received the coveted ISO 9002 Certification for its two feed mill operations in Luzon. This vote of confidence by a renowned international quality processing body, encouraged PureBlend to set its sights beyond the farthest reaches of the country, and into the global arena.

Hence, true to its history, San Miguel's PureBlend makes its presence felt in AGRILINK 2001 with the theme: "PureBlend: Making a quantum leap into global competitiveness".

To carry out the massive task of educating inner rural areas on the techniques of modern hog raising, PureBlend involves itself in civic activities such as upgrading duck and hog farm practices and technology via technical seminars, new practices in duck raising, the periodic publishing of research papers on duck raising, and the dissemination of this technology through entrepreneurial workshops.

Other extension services include free veterinary consultation and hog vaccinations, technical seminars for raisers on animal nutrition and sound animal health and reproduction methods.

Considering the phenomenal performance of the brand over such a short period, going for bigger share locally and venturing internationally is the most logical next hop for PureBlend.

Because a picture is worth a thousand words ...



The presence of PureBlend in hog raisers' minds is helped along greatly by brand exposure through aggressive promotions (above), and other advertising paraphernalia (below).



ISO award: the ISO 9002 certification was personally handed by members of the International Organization for Standardization, in a ceremony attended by Pureblend's key personnel.



PureBlend's goal is a seminar in every barangay. Hence, field personnel do not shy away from the job whether its a makeshift classroom in a bamboo grove or in a barangay of town hall.

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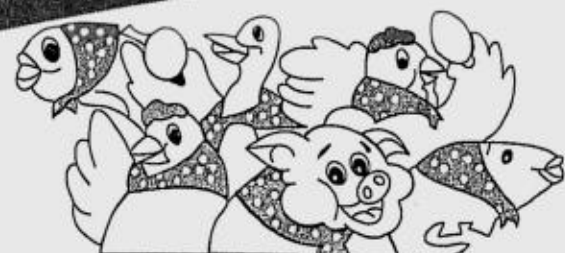
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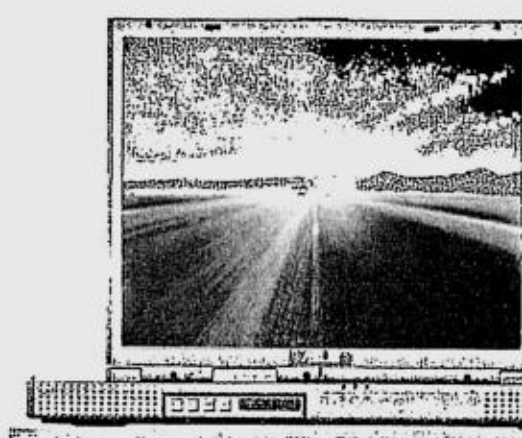
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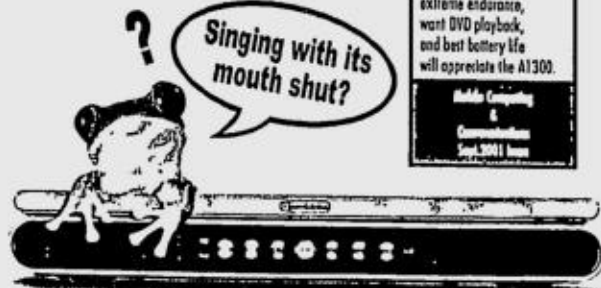


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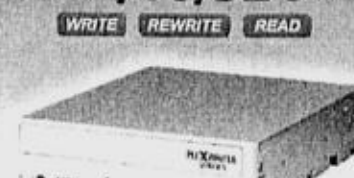
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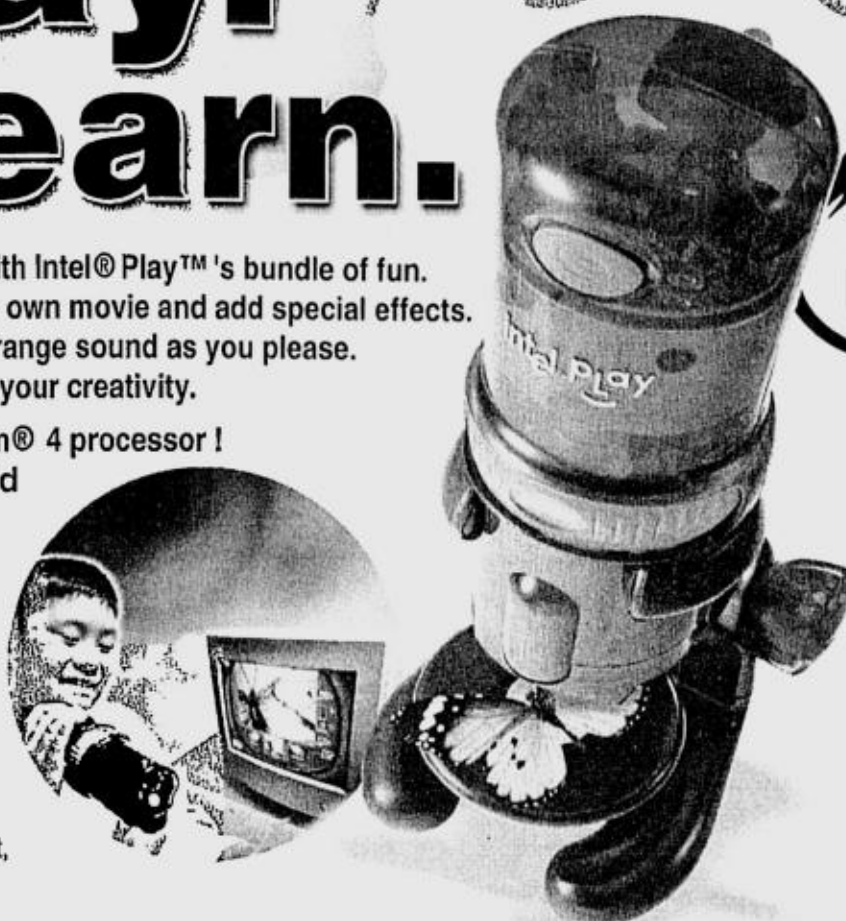
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"As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God."

LOURDES "Lory" MAYO REYES

of Lipa City

passed on to eternal life on October 17, 2001 at the age of 73.

Her sisters, Saide and Cory; her brother-in-law Tony Zalamea; her nieces and nephews and their spouses Maitet and Du Hizon, Manette and Raymond Acero, Junie and Naty, Suzette and Jun Soriano, Henry and Cutie, and Rosette and John Gutierrez; her grandnieces and grandnephews, her aunts, cousins and other relatives ask those whose lives she touched to remember her in their prayers.

Her cremated remains are at the family residence, 19 Macapuno Street, Valle Verde I, Pasig City. Interment will be on Sunday, October 21, at the ossuary of San Sebastian Cathedral in Lipa City after the celebration of Holy Mass at 10:00 a.m. at the church mortuary.

"So then if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.
The old things have passed away; behold, they have become new."
2 Corinthians 5:17

EDIREN ANG CO

peacefully joined our Lord Jesus Christ whom she loved
on October 17, 2001 at the age of 40.

Her husband, Jarvis, is comforted by the thought that her "momentary lightness of affliction works out for (her), more and more surpassingly, an eternal weight of glory." (2 Corinthians 4:17)

Her remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Monday, October 22 at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque, immediately following a short prayer meeting at 9:00 AM.

Engr. PERFECTO "Pitong" M. BORJA

of Cabanatuan City

Formerly Asst. Regional Director, Department of Public Works and Highways

Found perfect healing in the bosom of our Lord Jesus Christ
on October 17, 2001 at the age of 74.

His loving wife EMERITA "NITANG" VELAYO; daughters SARI, MONETTE, GIGI, and STEPHANIE; sons-in-law LOY AUSTRIA, MIKE TUASON and BONG DEL ROSARIO; grandchildren JUSTIN, DENISE, MIGS, GABES, GIBON and BORGEE; brothers GREGORIO JR. and JOSE; sisters CECILLA, ENRIQUETA, PACITA, SR. CECILIENCE (SPC), FRANCISCA, VICTORIA; other relatives and friends, request prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the family residence at 183 Gabaldon Street, Ma. Teresa Subdivision, Cabanatuan City.

Interment will be on Sunday, October 21 at the Cabanatuan City Cemetery after the 10:00 AM Mass at the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church—DAMBANA, Cabanatuan City.

"...absent with the body to be
present with the Lord" 2 Corinthians 5:8

Our Dearly Beloved

HERMAN JAMIAS HAMOR

peacefully joined our Lord on October 14, 2001
at the age of 34.

His loving wife Malou; daughter Carla. His parents Dr. Paul and Nila; brothers and sisters Henry, Vilinda, Harold, Vanessa and Barbra; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Chapel I, Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be after the 8:00 AM Mass on Sunday, October 21, 2001 at Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City.

In lieu of flowers, cash donations will be greatly appreciated for the educational benefit of his only child Carla.



In Memory
of

Dr. PAULINO G. ARCANGEL

Born on April 29, 1913
Died in the Grace of our Lord
on October 15, 2001 at the age of 88.

Wife: SEBASTIANA TEAÑO ARCANGEL

Children:

CORY and JOSE LLORENS
PAUL and TERESITA ESCARRILLA
VIBER and EVELYN BRIONES
VICTORIA ARCANGEL (+)
ANABELLE and MANUEL ESCUETA
AGNES and NESTOR JARINO

Grandchildren:

STEVEN, SHIRLEY and ROLAND, MA. THERESA,
CHARISSA, MICHELLE, BERNARD PAUL,
ARABELLE (+), MICHAEL PAUL, HAZEL JOY,
BEVERLY ANNE, MICHAEL VAL and MARY ANN,
PAOLO NOEL, FAYE ANNE MARIE and ELOU,
MARK STEPHEN

Great Grandchildren:

GAVIN, ALAINA, MARTIN JAMES, ANDREA
VICTORIA, RAMUEL

Body lies at Cosmopolitan Funeral Homes
Camus Extension, Davao City.

Interment will be on Sunday,
October 21, 2001 at 2:00 PM
at the Davao Memorial Park.



So dearly loved ...
So fondly remembered ...
So truly missed ...

In memory of a good husband,
a loving father, a dedicated friend
and an inspiring leader...

ATTY. ISABELITO HUERTO OJEDA

on the 1st Anniversary of his rebirth to eternal life
on October 20, 2000.

His wife Sally R. Litonjua; his children Gina, Gerard, Isabelita and Susana Grace request relatives, friends and pious readers to join them in praying for the eternal repose of his soul.

Holy Masses will be offered at the following
churches on October 20, 2001:

Nativity of Our Lady Parish, IVC, Marikina ...	6:00 AM
	6:00 PM
Christ the King Parish, Greenmeadows	7:00 AM
Mt. Carmel Shrine, Broadway	7:00 AM
San Sebastian Church, Legarda	7:00 AM
Santa Quiteria Church, Baesa	7:00 AM
Our Lady of Loreto, Sampaloc	7:00 AM
Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene	7:00 AM
Quitapo	
Santuario de San Jose Church	7:15 AM
East Greenhills	
Our Lady of Monserat Basilica	7:30 AM
San Beda College	
Santisimo Rosario Church	8:00 AM
University of Santo Tomas	

WINEFREDO M. LUDOVICE, SR.

of Daraga, Albay

Born on November 2, 1926 and peacefully joined our Lord
on October 17, 2001 at the age of 75.

His bereaved wife Felicidad; stepson Alfredo, children Leopoldo, Filomeno II, Winefredo Jr., Benjamin, Nelson, Ma. Nene, Leilani, Ma. Ruby, Noli, Glenn, Marilyn, and Raul; children-in-law; grandchildren; relatives and friends request pious readers to pray for eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Chapel G, La Funeraria Paz, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Cremation will follow after the 1:00 p.m. Mass and service on Saturday, October 20, 2001.

In Loving Memory
On the Sixth Death Anniversary
of our beloved

DR. RAMON R. ANGELES

Died October 19, 1995

Let us keep his memory alive and offer prayers for his
eternal peace and happiness in our Lord.

Mass will be held at the Sacred Heart Parish Church
(Kamuning, Quezon City) at 7:00 a.m.

Beloved Teacher, Mother and Lola
Your memory and your lesson will always remain in our hearts.

Bartola M. Alegre

Passed away on October 15, 2001

Her husband ALEX; children ANDY, LINA, TONIO,
SELMA & BERT; sister NARITA request
relatives and friends to remember Bartola in their prayers.

Interment will be on Saturday, October 20, 2001 at 2:00 p.m.

For other information, call or text 0919-730-8505

In Memory
of her First Death Anniversary

MRS. JOSEFINA BERMUDEZ GUIAMOY

MOMMY, your love, care and sacrifices with us will forever be
treasured by your loving Family. Husband Bert; children Dick and
Dommy; daughters-in-law Bhe and Ched; grandchildren Dithdith,
Bernard, Angeli and Dominique.

We love and missed you.

Message of Thanks
We, the family of the late

Edita Dadia Tolentino

Pro Ecclesia Et Pontifice
who joined her Creator on October 5, 2001

wish to convey our deepest and most heartfelt gratitude to all
those who offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers and notes of
sympathy, extended support, visited and kept vigil, attended the
Masses and funeral rites and who, in countless ways, consoled,
helped, and comforted us in the hour of our deepest sorrow.

RUDITA BERNARDEZ BLANCO

of Project 8, Quezon City and Bucay, Abra

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on October 16, 2001 at the age of 45.

Her bereaved husband Andrew; children Ruciela, Erika & Janina;
mother Tita; parents-in-law Florentino & Francisca; brothers and
sisters, brothers- and sisters-in-law, nephews and nieces, relatives and
friends request your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue,
Quezon City and will be transferred to her hometown Bucay, Abra on
October 21, 2001.

Interment will be on Saturday, October 27, 2001 at the Bucay
Catholic Cemetery, Bucay, Abra.

ESTELA U. AQUINO

Registrar 4 of the Benguet State University
La Trinidad, Benguet

Died in the Grace of our Lord
on October 11, 2001 at the age of 65.

She is survived by her beloved children:
FRAEL & MELODY, MARLOWE,
TIFFANY & ROLLY, TRINIDAD &
YOLINO, and FRANCISCO JR.,
grandchildren and relatives.

Her remains lie in state at the family residence
in FA 107, Benguet State University, La Trinidad,
Benguet.

Interment will be on Saturday, October 20, 2001
at 1:00 p.m. in Buyagan, Cemetery, La Trinidad,
Benguet.

Message of Thanks
The Family of the late

URBANA M. LAZARO

Who peacefully joined her Creator
on September 28, 2001

sincerely convey their deepest gratitude and
appreciation to all those who offered prayers,
sent flowers, visited and kept vigil, attended
the funeral rites and consoled with them in
their moment of pain and grief.

I am
the way,
the truth
and
the life.
No one
comes
to the
Father
except
through
Me.

John 14:6



An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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Preaching healthy lifestyles via word of mouth

BY GIL CABACUNGAN JR.

HEALTH Express Inc.—one of the country's leading retail chains of natural supplements—is confident that Filipinos are getting warmer to the idea that an ounce of prevention is indeed better than a pound of cure.

Health Express marketing director Anna Margarita Pascual says a growing number of Filipinos are becoming more conscious of the benefits of preventive medicine in sustaining a healthy lifestyle based on the robust expansion of health stores in the country in the past few years.

Health Express has been able to nurture a network of 10 retail stores nationwide with very little advertising.

The New York-bred Pascual says these stores have become popular largely on word-of-mouth because most Filipinos depend on their friends and kin for recommendations before trying on new products.

Pascual says the most difficult task in marketing their products is educating the public on the benefits of investing in the Health Express lifestyle—taking care of your body the natural way through adequate exercise and nourishment. Health Express takes care of the nourishment end by providing food supplements and multivitamins to people who could not get the required daily intake due to their busy schedule.

"People have different needs not only in the kind of vitamins but also in their doses, and Health Express will be there to fill their specific needs with a wide range of brands made from natural materials," Pascual says.

For example, Health Express sells vitamins with selenium which further enhances the effects of vitamins in the body and time release vitamins (they stay in the body for up to 12 hours) for acidic people who need Vitamin C.

This time, with more Filipinos getting wider access to information, Pascual says it was time to push the Health Express lifestyle more aggressively and to a much broader audience. Health Express is sprucing up its stores to establish a unique look for its branches and tying up with gyms and other health



PASCUAL

facilities to spread the gospel of healthy living.

In its new marketing campaign, Pascual says Health Express wanted to focus on its other product lines aside from vitamins and minerals—alternative medicine; sports nutrition; dietary supplements; and specialty products.

Health Express has alternative medicines to prescriptive drugs that are geared for specific diseases such as ampalaya capsule to lower blood sugar levels; ginkgo biloba to relieve stress; milk thistle to prevent liver damage; and coenzyme Q10 for lowering cholesterol.

Pascual says Health Express has a broad array of natural supplements for athletes who want to gain weight and build muscle. It also carries several brands of natural fat burners to those who want a trim figure.

It also has specialty products that cater to specific needs of individuals such as those who want to quit smoking, boost sex drive, and whiten their skin.

Health Express boasts of having the widest range of natural supplements among retail chains unlike its rivals which carry only in-house brands. Health Express brands include Nature's Bounty, USA Laboratories, Lifetime, Next Protein, Muscle Tech, and TwinLab. Pascual said this was meant to provide a one-stop shop for all the supplement needs of Filipinos.

Trying to beat the phone leader with a no-fuss, no-frills gadget

BY ABIGAIL L. HO

GOING into the fiercely competitive cellular phone market is no joke, especially in a country that seems to have a bandwagon mentality.

When the text bug bit the Filipinos, GSM (global system for mobile communications)-capable phones vied for the majority share of the Philippine market.

Handset suppliers came up with new features and functions that would entice would-be cellular service subscribers to buy their handsets: from ring tone composers, nifty games and expanded phone memory, to vibrating batteries and changeable handset casings and keypads.

But for Panasonic, it takes more than just a nice-looking handset to win the Filipinos' hearts.

High-quality phone engineering remains its main selling point. Without compromising the handsets' appearance, of course.

"Our market is basically those who look beyond the surface. Those people who don't just consider what is *uso*, but look at what the phone really has," Panasonic director Roberto "Chito" Limcaoco tells Business Friday.

Being a Japanese brand, Panasonic phones are "for keeps," Limcaoco says, because of their superior engineering and easy serviceability.

But even with these plus factors, he admits it is hard to eat at the market that dominant mobile phone supplier, Nokia, has in the Philippines.

"We don't have the budget like Nokia does for marketing, but we're now becoming more aggressive. We used to be media-shy, but maybe that has worked against us. We're now into ad

campaigns and sponsorships because it's just now that we feel we have a new range of products to (present to the public)," Limcaoco says.

He says special booths at major malls as well as its partnership with cellular giant Globe Telecom Inc. would help boost its sales figures and give Panasonic a bit more of the mobile phone pie.

Panasonic currently has a 10 to 15 percent share of the Philippine mobile phone market, making it the No. 4 brand in the country.

With the launch of its new handsets in the next two months, Limcaoco says they are confident that Filipino consumers would be able to "look at what's substantial," feature-wise and price-wise.

But this could be more easily achieved if the consumers actually knew exactly what the Panasonic phones could do.

Limcaoco says they aim to educate and inform the public through their advertising campaigns that Panasonic handsets, though without the frills that other handsets offer, could be the perfect phone for people from all walks of life.

"Panasonic is an engineering and technical company, so we're not really into marketing. But they're (the Japanese) getting to be more design-conscious, although they still won't compromise their engineering values," he says.

True, Panasonic handsets do not have changeable casings and keypads, but this is because the Japanese are not very comfortable about people doing anything that could, to some extent, damage the phones.

Replacing the handsets' casing and keypads may damage the



loaded from the Internet. What makes Panasonic different, though, is its full-screen wallpaper and polyphonic ring tone.

Unlike other handsets with operator logos that do not occupy the whole of the liquid crystal display screen, Panasonic handsets have full screen wallpapers that cover the entire screen.

An operator logo or wallpaper is the picture that is displayed on the handset screen when the phone is not in use.

Panasonic ring tones are also polyphonic, meaning it actually sounds like real music, unlike most handsets.

But Limcaoco says consumers would not know about these features unless they are informed about them. Aside from ad campaigns, he stresses the importance of educating the handset dealers themselves about the selling points of the phones.

"If people are selling our phones, they have to understand how to explain (its features). This also assures us that we would be able to provide the necessary services to our customers," he says.

Grabbing some of the market from Nokia would not be an easy task, Limcaoco says, but he adds that he knows Filipinos are intelligent consumers. In this day and age when budget is tight for everyone, functionality and value for money remain key to buying the perfect product.

"Our advanced features are all built-in. We also have a one-year warranty and very low rates of return and exchange. Industry norm is around one percent and we're way below that. That's what we're banking on," he says.

He goes on to say that in a fiercely competitive industry like telecommunications, "you gain reputation, slowly but surely." He reiterates, "our phones are for keeps."

Take the direct marketing route to sell more

(From page B14)

Leather Collection to have a loyal customer database. It has an 87-percent share of the leather corporate gifts market, 48-percent share of leather novelties market and annual corporate orders of over P50 million.

Angeli B. Lambsdorff, managing director of Indo-Customer Relationship Architects, says direct marketing is made possible by having an extensive database of customers. The database will show which customers provide the biggest sales, thus, allowing the company to zero in on the primary customers.

Lambsdorff identified the characteristics of direct marketing as:

Selective—by using the database, you can select specific individuals whom you want to interact with.

Personal—the database stores personal information that you can include to make the interaction more personal.

Measurable—because of the nature of direct marketing of being able to elicit a response, you can measure the effects of your efforts.

Not just sending mailers

Lambsdorff stresses that direct marketing is not just about sending out mailers. There are now new forms of direct marketing like the Internet and text messaging that allow companies to reach customers one by one.

"In times of economic difficulty, when the resources are scarce, knowing your customers' relative value allows you to concentrate on the type of customers and prospective customers who are more likely to generate more meaningful profit for your business," Lambsdorff says.

"Traditionally, it was about gathering a big market population, and most of those customers may not be

profitable. By focusing resources on those most valuable customers, you minimize waste and increase profitability," she adds.

Ichay Bulaong, managing director of First Direct Inc.—the direct marketing specialist of Leo Burnett—says the success of a direct marketing campaign also comes from the materials—their creativity and the look.

"The creative side is really important because it also serves to differentiate the companies. It is starting to play a more important role now than it used to," Bulaong says.

She estimates that about 40 percent of the success of the campaign comes from the quality of the mailing list or the audience, 40 percent on the offer or the product and 20 percent on the creativity or the materials.

She cites the example of Del Monte Kitchenomics. The recipes distributed by Del Monte that use different products created a loyal customer base among the homemakers. It is a direct and an innovative way to reach the customers.

Another example is the loyalty rewards programs of the credit card companies, the mileage programs of airline companies and the frequent shopper programs of supermarkets.

"Time famine"

Ned Roberto, professor of International Marketing of the Asian Institute of Management, says direct marketing has flourished because of the changes in consumer behavior. Companies that want to reach them should tap different mediums, as many of them don't even have the time to read a newspaper or watch television.

"I refer to it as time famine. People now are always pressed for time, so they should be accessed as quickly as possible," Roberto says.

BY CAROLINA A. RACELIS
SGV & Co.

THE GENERAL rule is that royalties paid to a non-resident foreign corporation by a resident of the Philippines are subject to the 10 percent value-added tax (VAT) in the Philippines.

Royalties which may be defined as the consideration received for the use or right to use property or property rights that involves know-how or technology is considered a sale or exchange of services for purposes of the imposition of VAT in the Philippines.

Hence, if the payment to a non-resident is considered royalties, such royalties will be subject to the 10 percent VAT in the Philippines regardless of where the services are performed as long as the object of the royalties is located in the Philippines.

The VAT due on such royalties is collected by the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) through the Philippine resident payor of the royalties who is constituted as the VAT withholding agent. The VAT shall be withheld by the Philippine resident payor and paid to the Bureau of Internal Revenue by filing a separate VAT declaration on behalf of the non-resident. The VAT paid by the resident payor to the BIR as evidenced by the duly filed VAT declaration shall constitute the Philippine resident payor's input VAT which it can offset against its own output VAT liability.

What if the Philippine resident payor is an export company registered with special incentives with the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (Peza), Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA), Clark Development Corporation (CDC) and the Board of Investments (BOI)? Are royalties paid by these companies to the non-resident foreign companies subject to the 10 percent VAT? May the VAT due on royalties paid to a non-resident be passed on to these companies? Are these companies liable to pay the VAT due on royalties paid to the non-

resident foreign companies?

Mostly, companies registered with the Peza, BOI, SBMA and CDC are export enterprises and are entitled to incentives pursuant to the governing law and regulations.

Export companies registered with the BOI pursuant to Executive Order No. 226, as amended, enjoy income tax holiday (ITH) for a certain period but are subject to all other Philippine national and local taxes, as may be applicable.

On the other hand, those export companies registered with the Peza pursuant to Republic Act No. 7916 (Peza Law), as amended, enjoy the 5 percent preferential income tax rate, in lieu of all other national and local taxes.

Under the Peza Law, however, an export enterprise is specifically allowed the option to avail first of the ITH incentive and later the 5 percent upon the lapse of the ITH period.

On the other hand, those export companies registered with the SBMA and CDC are governed by R. A. No. 7227, as amended, (Bases Conversion Development Act) and enjoy the 5 percent preferential income tax rate, in lieu of all other national and local taxes.

Thus, if a company is a registered exporter availing of the ITH incentive with either the BOI or the Peza, it is a logical conclusion that the 10 percent VAT due on royalties paid to a non-resident may be passed on to these entities because these entities do not enjoy exemption from other taxes, like the indirect tax, which may be passed on to these entities, as in the case of VAT. Under this line of argument, these registered export companies availing of the ITH incentive with the BOI or the Peza are therefore liable to pay the 10 percent VAT due on royalties paid to a non-resident. Being exporters, it is possible that these companies may not be able to utilize the VAT paid on these royalties as input VAT to be offset against their own

output VAT because as registered exporters, their export sales are VAT zero-rated, meaning subject to zero VAT, or in other words not subject to any output VAT.

On the other hand, registered export companies availing of the 5 percent preferential income tax rate under the Peza Law or the Bases Conversion Development Act are not liable to pay the VAT due on these royalties because these entities enjoy exemption from all other national and local taxes. In which case, the 10 percent VAT on such royalties may not be passed on to them.

Because of the different nature of the incentives accorded export-registered enterprises in the Philippines, the BIR, in several of its rulings, has clearly ruled that royalties paid by export-registered enterprises which are enjoying the 5 percent preferential tax rate, in lieu of all other national and local taxes, to a non-resident foreign company are not subject to the 10 percent VAT. Being exempt from VAT, export-registered enterprises under the 5 percent preferential tax rate have no obligation to withhold and remit the VAT on such royalties paid to a non-resident.

For export-registered enterprises under the ITH incentive, there was no clear cut treatment, however, on the VAT treatment of royalties paid by these export-registered companies to a non-resident.

This naturally created a confusion on the part of the foreign investors of these export registered enterprises enjoying the ITH incentive. How will these export-registered enterprises under the ITH incentive treat royalties paid to a non-resident? Will they subject and pay the VAT on these royalties? To the minds of these foreign investors, there should really be no distinction on the VAT treatment on royalties paid by an export-registered enterprise to a non-resident whether it is under the ITH or 5 percent incentive. For foreign investors, export-registered enterprises should be similarly situated in so far as VAT

treatment is concerned in the Philippines as the same relates to their export activities.

In response, the BIR reexamined the VAT Law in the Philippines. In Revenue Memorandum Circular No. 74-99 dated Oct. 15, 1999 issued by the BIR, it explained that the Philippines' VAT Law adheres to the cross border doctrine or destination principle of the VAT System. This means that no VAT shall be imposed to form part of the cost of goods destined for consumption outside of the territorial border of the taxing authority. Hence, actual export of goods and services from the Philippines to a foreign country must be free of the VAT. Conversely, those destined for use or consumption within the Philippines shall be imposed the 10 percent VAT. In effect, in applying and implementing the VAT Law in the Philippines, the interpretation of the provisions of the VAT Law has been harmonized with the cross border doctrine.

Thus, in a very recent ruling issued by the BIR, it has now categorically ruled that royalties paid by an export-registered enterprise (in this ruling, company is registered with the Peza) to a non-resident foreign licensor, is exempt from VAT, whether such export-registered enterprise is under the 5 percent or ITH incentive in accordance with the cross border doctrine to which the Philippine VAT system adheres to. Consequently, the export-registered enterprise, whether enjoying the 5 percent or ITH, is also exempt from the obligation to withhold and remit the 10 percent VAT on royalties paid to the non-resident foreign licensor. (VAT Ruling No. 057-2001 dated Sept. 5, 2001).

In line with the government's thrust to attract foreign investments in the Philippines, this BIR ruling is surely a welcome pronouncement for existing and future foreign investors in the Philippines.

(For comments, please e-mail to sgvmal@Andersen)

Dagupan bangus to invade foreign shores

(From page B14)

prospect of earning so much more from bangus production than at present levels.

"As a result, our resolve to go into the global marketing of Dagupan bangus was strengthened. If Washington State is globally known for apples, Hawaii for macadamia nuts, Florida for oranges, then there is no reason why the Dagupan bangus should not be in the world market, for we indeed have the world's best bangus," Lim said.

Aside from commanding higher market price, bangus has a mar-

ket—the 8 million overseas Filipinos who crave for Philippine products.

"If we can serve 5 million of the 8 million Filipinos, the total Dagupan bangus production will be consumed," Lim said.

He said bangus coming from the city would be marked with "Certified Dagupan Bangus" to differentiate it from those coming from other bangus-producing areas.

The city aims to produce 99 million pieces of bangus a year. At P30 each, the gross income would be P2.97 billion. At P2 net income from exports, the city hopes to earn P198

million annually.

River dredging

But first, the city government has to dredge the heavily silted rivers. It also has to clear the rivers of the illegal fish pens that hamper water flow, contribute to pollution and cause fish kill.

Sustained and regular dredging of the rivers will not only solve the problem of flooding but will also ensure good water quality for fish production, Lim said.

He added that in the past, the rivers of Dagupan were 36 feet deep. Now, the rivers are only 12 feet deep because of siltation.

Worse, about 80 percent of the rivers are filled with about 450 fish pens.

"We have to regulate the establishment of fish pens in our rivers. The fishery code says only 10 percent of the waters can be used for fishery structures," he said.

To maintain or even increase the production volume, the city will dredge the rivers by 5 feet. A briefing paper of the city mayor's office on bangus production said for every foot of additional depth in the rivers, the production output increases by 20 percent.

Processing plant

The city plans to market processed bangus in boneless, marinated and smoked forms. It has also started studying ways to package bangus in such a way that it can easily be sold in the international market.

To attain this goal, city officials have conducted studies and negotiations for the establishment of a modern fish processing plant and an international marketing facility to be jointly operated by the city government, fish producers and some cooperatives.

A corporation will be set up to manage the processing and export of

bangus. It will be composed of city government officials, fishpond and pen operators, cooperatives and private investors.

"We will also undertake a top level marketing and promotion program," Lim said.

The modern fish processing plant will be equipped with freezers, a processing center, a packaging center and a storage facility.

"We will be employing people to debone the bangus, thus creating jobs in the city," he said.

Lim said he is optimistic that by the end of next year, Dagupan's Bonuan bangus would be in the world market.

BUSINESSFriday

MARGIE QUIMPO-ESPINO, Business Features Editor

Take the direct marketing route to sell more



BY TINA ARCEO-DUMLAO

DESPITE the difficult economic environment, there are still more and more companies fighting for a share of a person or a family's income. Competition being more stiff than it has ever been, companies selling a product or a service now have to look for effective and viable means of reaching their customer, and hanging on to them for dear life.

One of these means is direct marketing.

It is defined as an interactive system where a manufacturer or service

provider goes direct to their target customer, without going through traditional channels such as retail outlets or advertising.

In a way, it is like personal selling that has been done for a long time by multilevel companies such as Avon or Tupperware.

Yoling Sevilla, chief executive officer of The Leather Collection Inc., tells the INQUIRER that her company has chosen to go direct because they feel that it creates stronger and more lasting relationships with customers.

"I personally write the letters to

my target market to let them know about our products," Sevilla, who is also the founding president of the Direct Marketing Association of the Philippines, explains.

This is different compared to the marketing campaigns of other companies that center primarily on tri-media advertising. These companies believe that by bombarding viewers, listeners and readers with commercials of their products, they would be able to quickly reach their market.

"Micro niching"

Sevilla, however, says that the

market today is no longer as homogenous as it used to be. With changing lifestyles and increasing incomes, companies are now talking about "micro niching" or finding small markets within a niche market.

"At the end of the day it is a market game, it is about finding the most cost-effective means of reaching the consumers. For us, direct marketing has worked because we have been able to build relationships," she adds.

These relationships have enabled

TAKE/B13

Sy scion lands Fortune's 50 most powerful women list

TAIPAN Henry Sy's daughter Teresita Sy-Coson lands Fortune Magazine's 50 most powerful women list in its latest issue.

The article, titled "the power fifty," lists the 50 most powerful women outside the United States. Fortune has been ranking the Top 50 women in American business but this is the first time they have expanded the list outside the United States.

Sy-Coson ranked No. 44 and was the only Filipina on the list. The article described her as: "Sy is a busy woman. At SM, founded by her father, she runs a \$500-million department store chain that sets trends in the Philippines. She's also executive vice president of SM Prime Holdings, which operates the country's biggest chain of supermalls, and chair of Banco de Oro, which has assets of \$1.2 billion."

Sy-Coson is the eldest daughter of Henry Sy, who started the mall phenomenon in the Philippines and is known as the "mall king."

She graduated from the Assumption College but was tasked to work in the family firm even during her student days.

"In compiling the list of international women, two trends stood out. First, women are gaining power in traditionally male fields. Sari Baldauf runs the infrastructure side of telecom equipment maker Nokia; Anne Lauvergeon is chief executive of France's nuclear power industry; Maria Silvia Marques heads Brazil's largest steel producer. Auto and oil companies are strongly represented. All are industries dominated by men, employing relatively few women at any level," the article stated.

Marjorie Scardino, CEO of Pearson, ranked No. 1. Pearson is the \$6-billion publisher of the Financial Times and The Economist, and owner of a slew of book and education businesses.

The article stated that in her five years as CEO of Pearson she reconfigured it from a hodgepodge into a focused media and education company.

In the 50 most powerful women in US business, Carly Fiorina, chair and CEO of Hewlett-Packard, ranked first.



SY-COSON

F1 fuel technology straight into your tank.

For over fifty years, Shell and Ferrari have enjoyed a unique partnership of technical advice, research and collaboration. And what we learn on the racetrack, we apply on the road in continuously improving our fuels and lubricants. So, once again, it's not just Ferrari and Michael Schumacher who are winners - it's you as well.



Dagupan bangus to invade foreign shores

BY YOLANDA FUERTES
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

DAGUPAN CITY—This city, famous for its Bonuan bangus (milkfish), is preparing the national fish to conquer the international market.

Crisscrossed by seven river systems spanning 70 kilometers, most parts of Dagupan used to be marshlands that were eventually converted into fishponds.

The fish pens dotting the rivers and fishponds are mostly devoted to bangus production, making the city a top producer of the fish.

The city government estimated the annual bangus catch at 54 million pieces from the fishponds and pens. But while the Bonuan variety is widely known as the tastiest of its kind in the country, it is almost exclusively marketed locally.

There are some bangus exporters from Pangasinan, according to the Department of Trade and Industry, but these are small-scale operators and their efforts are not enough for the Dagupan bangus to carve a niche in the international market.

Mayor Benjamin Lim, in his first state of the city address delivered on Monday, said he has conducted dialogues with fishpond and fish pen operators "(and) we saw the bright and very real

DAGUPAN/B13

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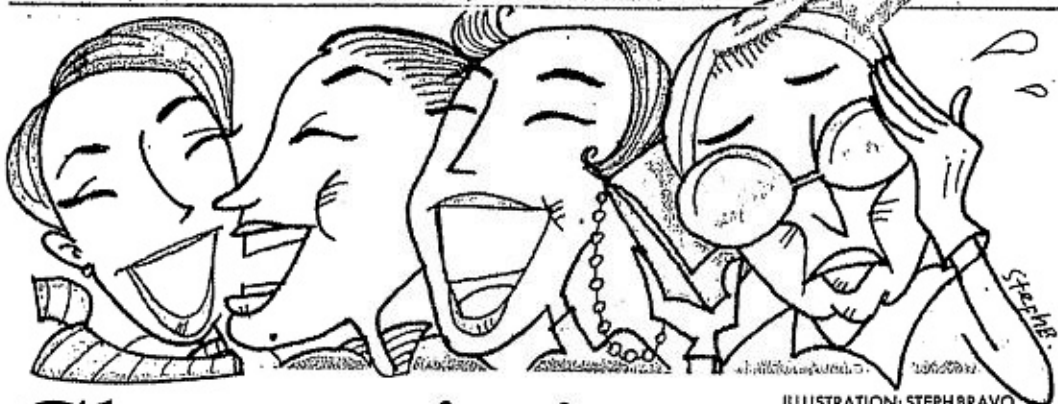
CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor
MARGE C. ENRIQUEZ, Subsection Editor

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Change is inner; it starts with you

Life coach and motivational author Mike George says self-esteem can only start with self-discovery. But first, the person must banish false self-images generated by the celebrity-hungry media

BY MARGE C. ENRIQUEZ

DO you feel like a tub of lard beside a buffed body, and so you make a pledge to lose weight? Do you feel like a rag beside a person who's covered in designer duds, therefore, you shop for knockoffs? Do you feel like a shriveled prune beside a glowing 18-year-old, and so you splurge on anti-aging formulas? Are you ashamed to park your 15-year-old Toyota because, beside a Mercedes Benz, it looks like a piece of tin?

It could be inferred that this is the attitude of the conformist, one who is easily swayed by social pressure. We are constantly enticed to compare ourselves with others or to aspire to their riches, pulchritude and status, and we are easily bamboozled by such influences.

In his book, "Discover Inner Peace," life coach and author Mike George points out that real happiness comes when we develop our innate capacity "to understand, value and preserve what is unique about us."

Self-esteem has been one of the premises of George's lectures and our conversation. This London-based speaker and management consultant has inspired legions of people with his lectures on self-awareness, positive thinking, power and passion and creative visualization.

"The workshops on leadership, self-management, self-esteem, stress management, time management, change management are all connected. These grew out of an understanding of the need to know and manage myself," said George who visited Manila recently.

Go against the tide

His vocation and advocacy were born out of his passion for truth. Twenty years ago, tired of the vacuous pursuits of the world, he began his journey. He chucked in the party nights and the toxic substances for clean living and spiritual development which people may find "boring."

"That's not what makes me happy. True freedom is being attached to nothing. Tell that to most people in the streets. They freak out. 'What do you mean? My whole life has been a series of attachments. That's where I get my happiness.' Don't get happiness mixed up with thrills and stimulation," said George.

Health reports have revealed the hazards of smoking, drinking and late nights and the benefits of sleep and a healthy lifestyle, yet people don't change.

"They do it because everyone else is doing it. There's the fear of walking against the tide. It's time to walk against the tide. Otherwise you choose the life of pain. We disguise the pain. We wipe the smile and say 'I'm okay.'"

Asked if people perceived him as odd for his nonconformist beliefs, George replied nonchalantly, "I don't care whether people think I'm strange or not. It doesn't bother me one iota. I'm not dependent on their feedback on how I feel about myself."

In his book, George raises the question of self-identity (How do I see and experience myself?), to which we usually give trivial answers. He points out

CHANGE/p.C2

WEIGHLESS CENTER

"No Time To Diet"

JANICE DE BELEN
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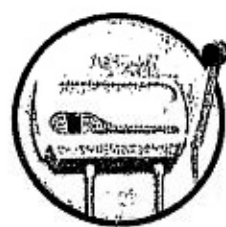
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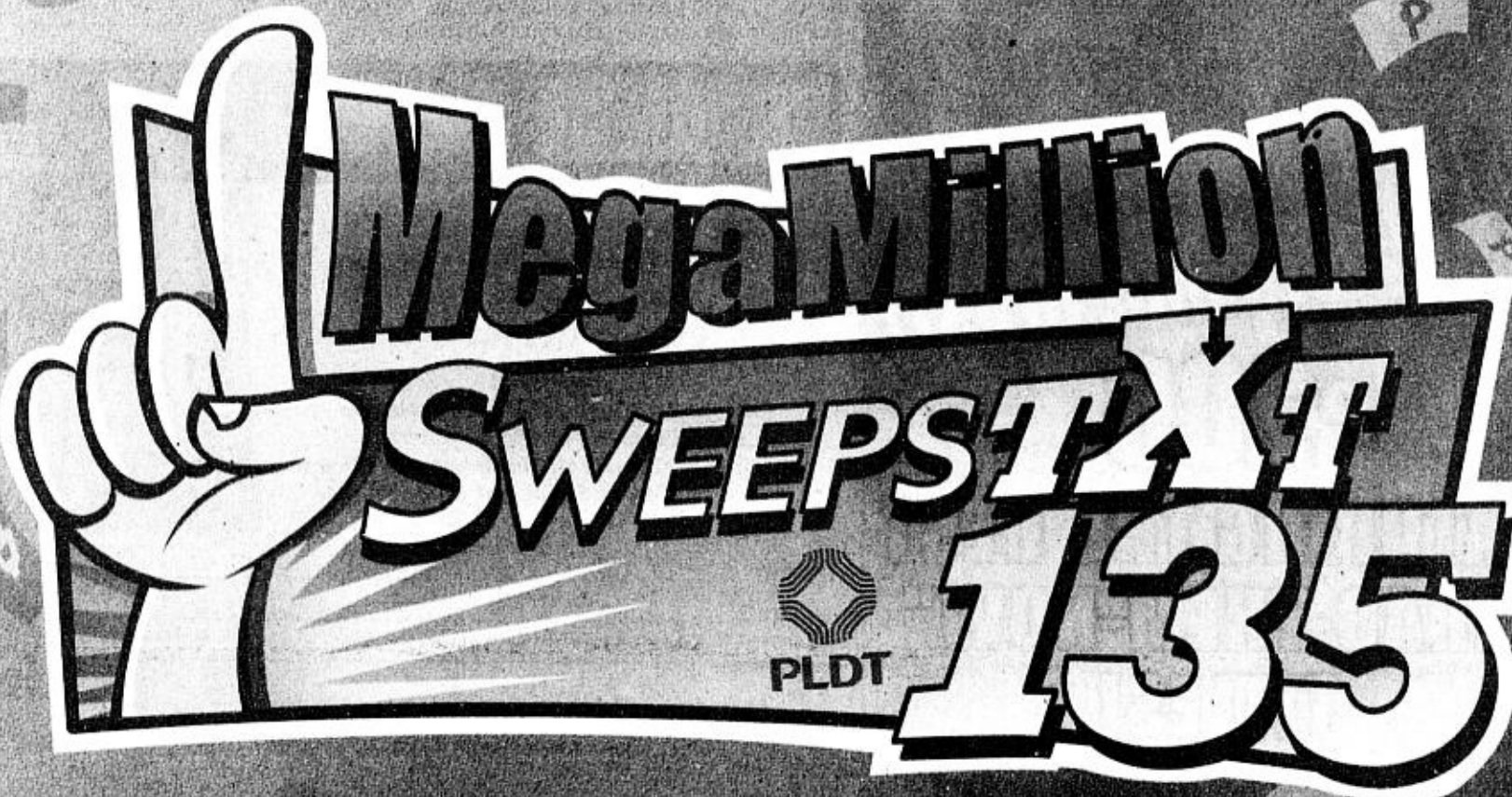
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'That's why we look at the fashion icons. I like to be like that, you'd say. It's not possible to be somebody else. I can only be me'—Mike George

Change is inner; it starts with you

(From page C1)

that we determine our importance based on superficialities. "We are programmed to identify ourselves with things that we are not: our physical form (obsession with appearance); our job (obsession with status); our material possessions (obsession with riches). In reality, we are not these incidentals of fortune or choice, but the energy of consciousness that they clothe."

Aspirational

My conversation with George stemmed from the fact that I was weary of the obsessions hyped up by the media. The media glamorize an aspirational lifestyle based on superficial values. Although I read foreign glossy magazines for current information, I don't take them to be gospel truth the way others do. I cringe at the false messages they are sending such as not being content with what we have or trying to be someone we're not so that we'll look cool. We deify celebrities simply for their looks and not their values. We have become fixated with them and do not look at them beyond toting the latest shampoo, flashing a toothy grin or getting into a scandal.

Baby boomers complain to me about how they



MIKE George

feel alienated by the images of youth in fashion magazines and advertisements. The media present a worldview that life is short. Anyone over 30 should be buried 6 ft below the ground. Some magazines, for all their good intentions, present fashion spreads of models in plus sizes and women of a certain age. However, the presentation tends to be self-defeating. Readers protest that it merely emphasizes the fact that they're big or old.

A prominent photographer once walked out of an assignment to shoot Manila's "most glamorous" (by the magazine's standard) women. To him the subject matter had become outworn and trite. To me, his attitude was an indication that people were questioning values that were once held as ideals. People are looking for deeper truths.

False icons

Ironically, the people that media proclaim as "icons" are just as human as we are. George cited celebrities who enter rehab centers, clinics and priorities for detox in order to regain their self-esteem. "They are totally focused on the surface in life. Inside they're

miserable. You see them on the stage and they look fantastic and happy. Go around to the changing room. They are as miserable as everybody else in the world, but they are good at disguising it," he said.

"Their self-esteem is dependent on the applause of others. Their self-worth is dependent on their status, possessions, the size of the house, the numbers of dresses and pairs of shoes. This is fatal. They teach the rest of the world to live like that. We all follow them because they are 'leaders' in the limelight. We bow to them and we think 'I'd love to be like that.' We don't realize that the clear issue is my self-esteem."

George pointed out that the basic reality lay deep inside ourselves. To lead a purposeful life, we need to realize that the self is the most precious thing in the world.

"If I don't learn how to base that with something solid within myself, I'd project it outside. I make myself very vulnerable; I have no inner strength. And so, it's time to go back to school to learn about self-esteem. What is it? Where does it come from? How do I build it? What's real self-esteem? What's false self-esteem?"

"The definition is the knowledge and the awareness of my own beauty and value. I know and I'm aware that I'm unique. I know and I'm aware of my own value in this life. The deepest habit has been that human beings are taught to compare themselves with others. That's why we look at the fashion icons. 'I like to be like that,' you'd say. It makes us aspire to be like somebody else. It's not possible to be somebody else. I can only be me. I have the unique combination of qualities that nobody else has. If I'm always watching somebody else, I don't see those qualities within myself. Every time you compare yourself with somebody else, how often does your self-esteem go up or down? That's ego."

George defines ego as the attachment to and the identification with the habits, ideas, beliefs and wrong impression of the self.

"When you pick up the magazine, it says look at this person—slim, beautiful, lovely smile and you can be like this, too. Come on, aspire to be like this."

Here's the diet, here's the bottle of perfume, here's the dress, buy all of these things and you could live like this and therefore, you could be as happy and successful. This is the beauty myth. We buy into it instantly. We think that our beauty can be painted on, rubbed in, or purchased. We all know that real beauty is not on the surface," said George.

Beyond age

In youth, we are preoccupied with how we look, impressing others and comparing the self with others. Consequently our self-esteem becomes weaker.

"You realize that your self-esteem has been based on the wrong things. You have to make this massive learning curve to understand that self-esteem comes from inside, not outside. That's another dimension to be discovered inside our consciousness. That's the richness of experience and wisdom. It's the richness of our own stability, which has been there all the time. Then we focus less on appearances, on fashion and shape, and the image we project to others."

Traditionally, it is in the mature years when we are most equipped to share the gains of our experiences. He challenged the notion of fear of aging.

"We could do well to absorb the lessons of the East, replacing the all-too-common sense of gradual decline with a more accurate realization of the potential that remains to us still, long after our physical powers have started to weaken. Our body may lose its luster as we age, but experience can burnish our spirit to a gleam that is more radiant."

George told INQUIRER, "We've all met an old man or old woman who has walked into the room and sat down. You could put your hands up to them like a radiator. They are so warm and open. There's love, acceptance and wisdom. There's nothing to look at because they're quite ugly, wrinkled and old. As you leave that encounter, you say, 'What a beautiful person that was!' There wasn't anything on the surface. It was coming from the inside. What is spiritual beauty? It's the awareness that I am love. I'm a source of peace and I am the creator of my own happiness. These are my three sources inside."

Debunking myths

In his workshops, George helps people debunk such myths as our sense of worth can be bought for \$100. He gets participants to understand that they have to discover the qualities within themselves and find a way of expressing them.

"If I understand that real love is my nature and the source of love in life, that doesn't mean I go to work Monday morning and I say 'I love you' to everybody. It means being creative and giving love according to the situation."

One way to show it is to accept people for who they are and what they are, or to give comfort to souls who have experienced an emotional collapse. Sometimes being strict to someone who has been lax is another form of love. "I need to apply the lawful phase of love which is respect. I respect what they do, but I need to lay down the law. If I give that respect as I lay it down, they will respect me in return."

To develop self-esteem requires daily homework, and there's no such thing as a quick fix that changes a person deeply.

"You have to do the work of changing within your behavior. No workshop can make you do that unless you want to. I'll help you see all that. But I can't make you change. I'll reveal the truth and I'll help you question your illusions. That's the same thing, but changing your behavior is the next step. That's the question of how much you want to change."

Next week: Mike George talks about reviewing relationships. For courses on self-esteem, call 890-7960 or 922-9231.

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- Cooking Demonstration & Fine Dining Seminar by Center for Culinary Arts
- Series of Live Band Performances: Barbie's Cradle, Session Road, Elements, Itchyworms, Proverbial Eye, One arm Scissor
- Casino Nights
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Cosmetics are gentle on both skin and source

HEALTHY Options takes another step toward environmental conservation with its Beauty without Cruelty (BWC) line, offering products that make maximum use of natural ingredients, or materials not cruelly obtained.

The new line does not contain animal ingredients such as musk, castoreum and chineal (carmine), a red pigment chemically extracted from scaly insects. All formulations do not have ingredients that are by-products of the meat and fishing industry such as gelatin, collagen and elastin.

The gentle, fragrance-free product line includes long-lasting lipsticks, pencils and lip balm formulated with a balanced blend of waxes and oils for conditioning; makeup items like moisturizers and foundation with added UVA and UVB sunscreens; pressed and loose powder with super-fine texture; blusher and bronzing powder; soft powder eye shadow; soft kohl and defining pencils; mascara in smudge-resistant color; and nail color.

BWC cosmetics, skin- and hair-care product line are available at Healthy Options, with branches at 1/L Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Mandaluyong City; Rustan's Supermarket, Makati City; 2/L Festival Supermarket, Filinvest, Alabang; G/L Ayala Center, Cebu City; LG/F SM City, North Edsa; 2/L SM City Manila; Greenbelt, Ayala Center, Makati City; and 2/L SM Mogu-mall B, Edsa, Mandaluyong City.

Musical features chamber orchestra and Chinese violinist

THE ARTS Council of Cebu, with the Czech Embassy, will present one of the world's best chamber orchestras, Suk Chamber Orchestra, and China's violin virtuoso, Jue Yao, in a musical event. The show is set tomorrow at 8 p.m., at the Sinulog Ballroom of City Sports Club-Cebu, Ayala Business Park. Tickets are available at Arts Council office. Call 233-0452/0236.

GOINGS ON

SEMINAR. Excellence Seminar 20 is set today until Oct. 21. It offers over 30 classes on worship, music, media and ministry management. Call 722-6749.

FAIR. Karl Edward International presents "Gifts and Keeps Bazaar" on Oct. 21 and 28 at the Grand Ballroom of Hotel Inter-Continental. The bazaar is open 9 a.m.-7 p.m.

SPECIAL DEALS. Avid Sales Corporation is offering special deals on selected Sony television sets. The promo ends Oct. 31. It is ongoing at the following Avid stores: Avid Sony Cebu, Festival Mall, Quad Makati, Kalaw, SM Megamall and Pasong Tamo; AV Center SM Bacoor, Balintawak, Ali Mall Cubao and Alabang Town Center; Beyond Farmer's Plaza and Call Audio Video at Robinsons Galleria.

SALE. Surf World! offers a special sale starting today until Oct. 21. The store is located at the 3/F, Building B, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City.

STORYTELLING SESSION. National Bookstore (NBS), together with Golden Books Publishing, is conducting a special storytelling session this month at five NBS branches. All kids aged 4-12 are invited to join this free session tomorrow, at 3-5 p.m., at the NBS SM North Edsa and Glorietta branches. Other storytelling sessions will be held at NBS SM Manila on Oct. 21 and NBS Alabang and Megamall on Oct. 28. Call 531-5079 or 631-8061 to 66, local 173.

BAZAAR. Ayala Center presents "Bazaar @ Glorietta 4!" until Dec. 31, at the 2/L, Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati. This festive bazaar is definitely a treasure-trove of unique finds at affordable prices.

MARIAN RALLY. The Our Lady of the Rosary Parish in Maysan, Valenzuela City will hold a Marian rally tomorrow as part of its month-long parish fiesta. The rally will consist of two parts. A torch parade starts at 5 a.m. and culminates with a Holy Mass. The second part will begin at 8 a.m. and will feature Marian news, interpretative dance and songs in honor of the Blessed Mother.

DIABETES LECTURE. Health from Earth Life features Dr. Abe Gibelly, an American who specializes in diabetes and body fat, in a lecture about diabetes and body fat to be held tomorrow at Splendido Suites Hotel, Makati. Call 660-2290, 669-8017 and 660-8376.

UP graduates top geologist exams

THE UNIVERSITY of the Philippines scored a grand slam in the recent Geologist Licensure Examinations.

Graduates of the State University's National Institute of Geological Sciences (NIGS) had the 10 highest ratings. In fact, all the 18 UP graduates passed.

Topnotchers were Antonio Dimabuyo (88.9), Yahya Basman II (88), Lailanie Suerte (86.6), Rosanele Romero (86.4), Jack Barajas (86.2), Byron dela Fuente (86.1), Nathaniel Baluda (86), Kathreen Miralles (86), Ariel Panol (85.1) and Maria Virginia Heruela (84.7).

University president Dr. Francisco Nemenzo tendered a dinner in his official residence to honor not only the graduates but also one of their teachers, Dr. Graciano P. Yumul, Jr.

Yumul, an NIGS professor who teaches both graduate and undergraduate courses, was recently named Most Outstanding Teacher by the Metrobank Foundation.

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Handa nang humarap si Jollibee sa Masskara Festival!

Sa Masskara Festival, kasali ang masayang ngiti ni Jollibee sa mga parada't palaro! At dahil may "Treats for Keeps" promo sa anim na Jollibee stores sa Bacolod, siguradong mas langhap-sarap ang pagdiriwang ngayong taon!

Tuluy-tuloy ang kasiyahan sa lahat ng Jollibee stores sa Bacolod: Gatuslao • Lacson • La Salle • Libertad • Luzuriaga • Robinson's Place



Jollibee

Customized makeup gains ground

BY HARRIET ANN DY

LETS'S face it: a good makeup base lays down the solid foundation of a successful makeup aesthetic. The right shade both enhances your skin and effortlessly hides your flaws.

This is often easier said than done though. Personally, I had never seem to have much luck with makeup until I met Prescriptives sales development manager Lori Kutch in Kuala Lumpur last July.

Like most women, I automatically gravitated toward products for yellow skin tones, only to be told by Lori that all skin tones have varying degrees of yellow/orange and blue/pink shades. Prescriptives has four color families, but that's getting ahead of the story. Another problem is I have oily skin, and no matter how light or oil-free foundations claimed to be they came off either cake-y or pasty. So I did the next best thing: I just relied on my T. LeClerc powder compact in Banane.

With Prescriptives, Filipinas can use the makeup that best fits their skin, like a hand in glove

Not so fast, says Lori. "You have to start thinking of foundation as part of your skincare regimen, because it can help protect your skin," she says from her perch at the Prescriptives counter at the Metrojaya Department Store in downtown KL.

Unlike sunblock which melts into your skin, the wrong foundation can make you look like a cross between a plaster of Paris mold and a chalky creation.

But how to figure out which of the 10,000 cosmetics product choices available in the makeup counters today?

Simple. Get yourself color printed.

Color what? "We believe in offering the exact color for the individual woman and Prescriptives' Exact Color line identifies a woman's color family and determines her exact match for her foundation," says Sharyn Wong, Estee Lauder regional executive, the conglomerate behind Prescriptives.

Fingerprinting

Think of it as makeup fingerprinting. The technology is new but the concept goes back a long way. Prescriptives pioneered custom blend makeup in 1984. In fact, the service is such a hit that it accounts for roughly 20 percent of the total business. "It's a point of difference in the [already saturated] cosmetic market," says Kutch. And a good one at that. At a time when fashion and beauty zeroes in more on individual style, custom-made and one-of-a-kind products are flying off the shelves. There is nothing more sumptuous than having something, anything,

tailor-made and makeup is no exception.

Prescriptives' specialized service uses the Colorprinting technology. In less than 10 minutes, Lori is able to determine my skin's color family (yellow and orange), the kind of coverage I want (sheer) and whether I need any specific ingredients (she added an oil-controlling extender to combat my hyperactive sebum production). If you think that's sophisticated, wait until they release foundation with additional ingredients to whiten and firm up the skin. "This way, the foundation gives treatment as well as coverage," she says.

Watching her whip up my foundation is like watching an artist at work. A rubber spatula is her handy tool; eight bottles filled with creams in rainbow colors her palette. For my pressed powder, pigments in various colors are arranged neatly in test tube bottles.



PRESCRIPTIVES' Yoke May, Lori Kutch, Sharyn Wong and Maribel Paterno

She start with beige, then adds black, mustard and white. Finally, she adds a dash of tan to deepen the newly concocted shade. She pours everything into a bottle—and gives me travel-sized containers as bonus. As for the powder, it is simply fascinating how she melded the pigments and neatly packed it in a case. The best part? Once they have me on their file, I can always go back and replenish it once I use up my portion.

Strong

Like all customized things, Prescriptives Exact Color can set you back a pretty penny. Nevertheless, Lori says their custom blend service has been

very strong in Asia. "Asians are really sophisticated with their makeup needs," she says.

At the counter, as if my custom-blended foundation is not enough, I pick up a foundation brush (goodbye sponges) and Magic by Prescriptives, a loose powder with holographic qualities that promise to retexturize the skin. Top makeup artist Patrick Rosas swears by it.

Aside from custom-blended foundation, the new Prescriptives counter in Rustan's Makati also offers lip, cheek, eye and skin products as well as makeup brushes for the sophisticated user.

Undaunted and chirpy as ever

TWENTY years ago at Julie Borromeo's Performing Arts Studio, people couldn't help but notice this tall and lanky mestiza with a chirpy disposition. The attraction was not only because she was the granddaughter of the statesman Don Claro M. Recto. She was bubbly and charming, traits that later got her jobs on television.

At 34, Plinky Recto still exudes that animated and down-to-earth charm. Over lunch at Rustan's Essences Bar, she tells this writer that she has come full circle from a young dancer to president of BodyWorker, a studio at the Orient Day Spa where she offers alternative fitness courses such as Pilates.

For life to be wholesome, there always has to be a sense of change; one also has to leave room for new experiences. Thus, Recto went through life fending for her self, working in Belfast, Northern Ireland as an assistant financial analyst, coming home to host TV shows, becoming a producer, getting married and having it annulled, being a mother, suffering from reproductive ailments and bouncing back to be the spokesperson for Prescriptives, the newest makeup brand launched by Rustan's.

Living up to a healthy lifestyle which she purports, Recto orders a light lunch of ginger carrot healing soup and a lettuce salad with apples and cashews.

Pilates

Recto is a certified Pilates instructor from the Physical Mind Institute in New Mexico, founded by Joan Breibart, one of Joseph Pilates' pupils. She was trained by Alexander Garcia. Recto had acquired injuries as a dancer and also while campaigning for her brother Ralph (yes, Vilma Santos is her sister-in-law). Her right ankle got dislocated while dancing; she tore a ligament in the knee and suffered shoulder pains during her brother's senatorial campaign.

After the elections, Recto went to America and took up the training courses for the Pilates mat class, advanced classes using the apparatus, and the concentration program and the instructors program of 250 hours. At this writing, Recto has had 750 hours, including apprenticeship.

She started conducting Pilates classes very recently and the slots for the solo classes are nearly full. BodyWorker offers classes that include the Luigi jazz technique. She took classes in New York with Liza Minnelli next to her. Recto plans to franchise her studio.

Aside from her new venture, she is president of her production company, Gab Inc. Recto says two television game shows are in the pipeline.

Recto waxes proud that she has fended for herself since she was 18. After taking up mass communications at Assumption, she went to Ireland to learn more about life. Since she had no

background in finance, Recto took up a correspondence course from the London School of Economics. Recto also wanted to visit Ireland to look into her roots. Don Claro's middle name, Mayo, was from a county in Southern Ireland.

After living in Ireland for two years, she returned to Manila and met with director Bert de Leon whom she had previously worked with. She hosted "Eat Bulaga," "It's a Date" and corporate special events.

Asked how she could conduct business for herself, Recto replies, "I've got my father who's a lawyer. I got loans and learned how to get the best interest rates."

On her personal life, the stress of the annulment proceedings took their toll on her health. Being a fighter, Recto looks unscathed and is proud to gain 10 pounds. She says that her 5-year-old son, Armand, has given her great happiness.

Recto's other baby is BodyWorker, which is the fulfillment of her childhood dream. "As a child, I had always wanted to own a studio. This is going back to my dream." When she stopped dancing, her joints started to ache especially in cold weather. The muscles started to lose their strength and control. Recto wanted to get into a fitness regimen. From the inquiries she has been getting, it looks like she's on the right path.



Spokesperson

Since she's into fitness, it is no wonder that Rustan's tapped her to be the spokesperson for Prescriptives. Recto discovered this brand in Kuala Lumpur where she has a business called Te-

Despite life's ravages, Plinky Recto, spokesperson for Rustan's Prescriptives, is bubbly and charming as ever

lephony Solutions. At first, she bought Prescriptives' fragrance Calyx. Then she discovered a potion that made her skin shine under foundation. She started patronizing Prescriptives' foundations because the colors suit the skin tone

regardless of the conditions.

For the interview, Recto explains how she mixed Prescriptives' colors. Since she is having her photographed taken, she favors the liquid foundation with a yellow-orange base. She chooses Fresh Pale Vellum #40, which is a few shades darker than her skin tone. The Warm Medium Concealer covers her freckles. To set her foundation, she uses Translucent Powder #4.

For the eyes, Recto recommends Bean eye shadow as the base. A little color looks as if she's not wearing makeup. For depth, add more shadow. To lift the corners of her eyes, she applies Powder Play loose color No. 2, a brown shade. She mixes Tea Leaves and Relic, eye liner and shadow. For contrast, she applies Powder Play loose color Polka Dot 03. She frames her eyebrows with shaping pencil in soft black and covered her lashes with mascara in black-brown. For the Undereye Diffusers, she uses Pongee, Dawn and Walnut.

For the cheeks, she chooses Sheer Cream #01 Beam to highlight her bones and Cinnamon blush for contour. For the lips, she mixes Lavish Bauble 114 and Honey 02 Satin Liquid Lip color so that the color wasn't too pink for her taste.

After the sales pitch of Prescriptives and her retelling of her life story, Recto excuses herself to work out with her client.

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Being wired in style

IN SPORTS parlance, 27-year-old Bryan Lim would have been known as, well, a deep bench.

The nephew of lifestyle retailer Ben Chan and son of Ben's sister Nenita and Virgilio Lim—they comprise the Bench triumvirate, by the way—this MBA candidate is on the threshold of ushering in second-generation Bench.

Indeed, new Human model KC Concepcion may frontline the changing dynamics in the company's image but GenXer Bryan has been working behind the scenes, expanding the company with new business endeavors like Fix Salons and Be Connected, a series of Internet/PC Cafés.

Like most entrepreneurial offspring, he has been suiting up for the family business for as long as he can remember. Even as a toddler, he would visit his dad's offices and wait for him. He was only 13 when Bench was born but "we knew we'd eventually work for the company."

At 15, he'd already spend his Christmas vacation manning holiday traffic at the old Bench boutique in Park Square or doing cash collections at Ever Grand Central mall.

"When you see your uncle or parents visiting the stores in the weekend, you know your weekends will be devoted to mall hopping," he recalls over a pasta lunch at a Makati mall.

Robina Gokongwei-Pe, whose family owns the Robinsons malls where Bench is a faithful tenant, has similar memories of Bryan starting out in the business.

"I think it was 10 years ago when I was shopping for some stuff at a Bench store at what is now the Quad Car Park when someone asked me, 'Can I help you?' and I was surprised to see this teenager trying to assist me," she recalls. "I didn't know it was Bryan until his father Virgilio told me. Bryan was then 16 or 17 and his dad had asked him to help out at the store over the summer."

Glamour

The glamour factor of being in the fashion business wasn't lost on him, of course, what with the fashion shows, the models and the growing number of celebrities endorsing the brand.

For a time, Bryan and his two sisters acted as an informal market research group; it was partly their negative reaction to the Bench logo shirts that flooded the bargain centers years ago—both original and imitation—that decision was made to pull out the shirt series. Interestingly, this was perhaps the last Bench fashion faux pas before the company started hitting the high notes of the so-called lifestyle formula.

He joined the company five years ago, after earning his degree in industrial engineering from De La Salle University, and was promptly placed in the highly lucrative underwear division.

"Bench's fashion lines may be what drives people to come into the store, but underwear makes up roughly 50 percent of our business," he says. This includes basics like undershirts, towels and even toiletries. No surprise that he first came into the spotlight during the last controversial Bench underwear show at the World Trade Center.



STYLISH and spacious work station provides clients with comfort, designed by Miguel Pastor.

'Liaison'

These days however, he is busy overseeing the latest additions to the Bench group: Be Connected Internet/PC Cafés and Fix Salons.

"Be Connected will be Bench's liaison to the young crowd," he says. "We know there's a big opportunity in this business and we want to be a part of it."

A trial run came in the form of free Internet counters at select Bench branches. Unlike other cafés that charge on a per-minute basis, Bryan says they'll take the concept further by breaking down rates into peak and off-peak prices and by offering not just Internet but gaming services as well.

Fix Salon, meanwhile, is an offshoot of the company's eponymous grooming line. "The salon fits perfectly into our shared lifestyle synergy," says Bryan. "We hope to be the driver for salon styles. Like our fashion, we want dictate the trend, not follow the trend."

Talk about bringing high-fashion hair and beauty at Bench prices. For this endeavor, they've tapped Juan Sarte and Alex Carbonell of Propaganda Salon to be makeup and hair consultants respectively. The first Bench Fix Salon opened at Robinsons Ermita this month. Services are cheap, like P120 per haircut.

"We see ourselves as having more influence in the market," he says. "We have the total look to offer you."

And if he sounds like your typical MBA candidate, it's because he's working on his executive MBA course at the Asian Institute of Management.

There's more: "I really learned a lot from my uncle," he says. "He really thinks out of a box and this is why I force myself to think like he does. I've also seen how he was able to combine marketing with business and how important it is to the growth of the company, which we hope to maintain at least in the next five years."

A tall order and tough act to follow indeed. But his enthusiasm and earnestness as well as the raw edge are there. ("I'm lucky to be with a company in a field I like.")

Says Robina: "I can see that Bryan got the creativity genes of his Uncle Ben and the analytical mind of his dad." Not bad indeed, for someone who hopes to combine both, with a dash of tech.

Harriet Ann Dy

E-mail the author at chinachix@hotmail.com



THE DIETHER CUT.

This "mohawk" haircut has short sides and longer layers at the crown, enough to create height and uneven texture.

Those sagging breasts need a French 'kiss'

BY MARGE C. ENRIQUEZ

WHEN dermatologist Victoria Belo underwent mammography, the hospital staffers were amazed at the results. They told the 44-year-old doctor that her breast tissues were as young as 20-year-olds. She attributes it to her newest treatment, which is Manila's best-kept secret. Slots for the Starvac, a French treatment that firms up sagging breasts, are always full at the Belo Medical Clinic.

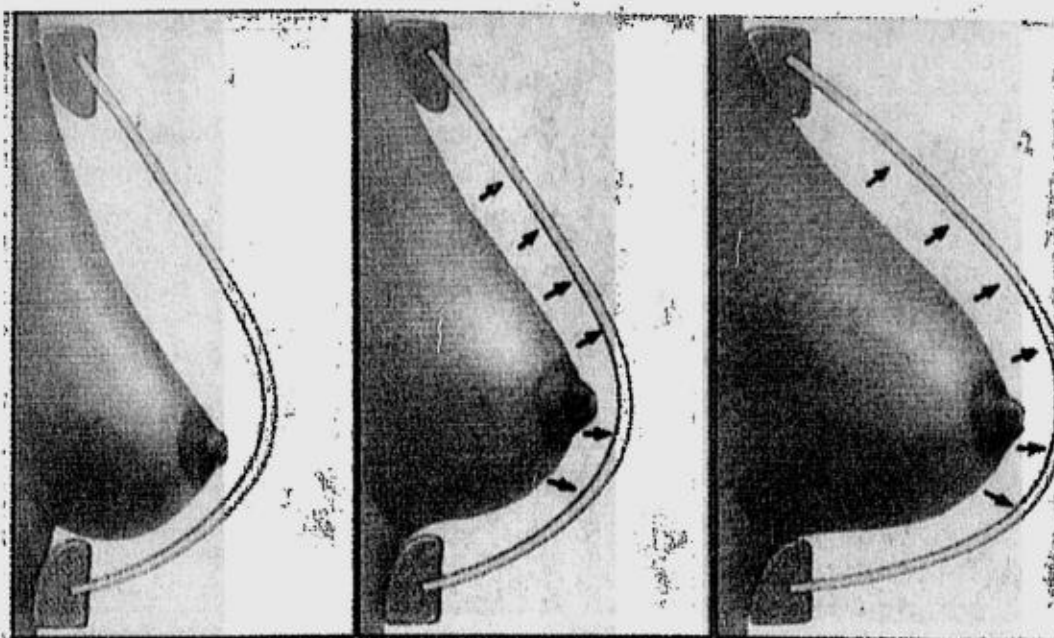
Belo says the French have been known to devise treatments that improve the lymphatic drainage system to firm up sagging contours, whether it's the jawline or the thighs. Starvac, the patented name of a machine that vacuums excess fat into sagging areas such as the butt and breast, has done wonders after a dozen sessions.

'Wastebasket'

"The lymphatic system drains the toxins from the body. It's like the wastebasket of the body. As we get older, it gets sluggish. The blood circulation tends to get constricted especially at the end of the arteries. The skin is the first to suffer," she explains.

Belo compares middle-aged breasts to a deflated balloon. There are many reasons breasts start to sag; like fewer tissues and therefore less blood supply so the glands shrink.

The Starvac is a machine that uses a suction apparatus to vigorously rub the body. As the suction pressure increases, the blood circulation is stimulated, toxins are easily removed and excess fat will be transferred to nearby areas, which need filling. The increased blood circula-



THIS European invention uses a suction device to transfer fat into droopy breasts.

tion helps to nurture healthy tissues.

"Starvac brings blood to the skin and stimulates the muscles to contract," Belo says.

Firmer breasts

Clients have been talking about the results of this nonsurgical lift. Women reported either an increase in chest size or firmer breasts. A client once complained that she had had too much fat on the side of the chest and her breasts were being pulled down by gravity. After 15 sessions of Starvac, her breasts became rounder and well toned.

There have been success stories from clients

whose breasts become firmer while their abdomens get flatter. The machine will not enlarge breasts but it will prop up the chest in the right position, improve the skin tone, make the nipples firmer and balance the symmetry.

The Starvac can also be applied to define the contours of the face. The cheekbones are defined while the jawline gets firmer.

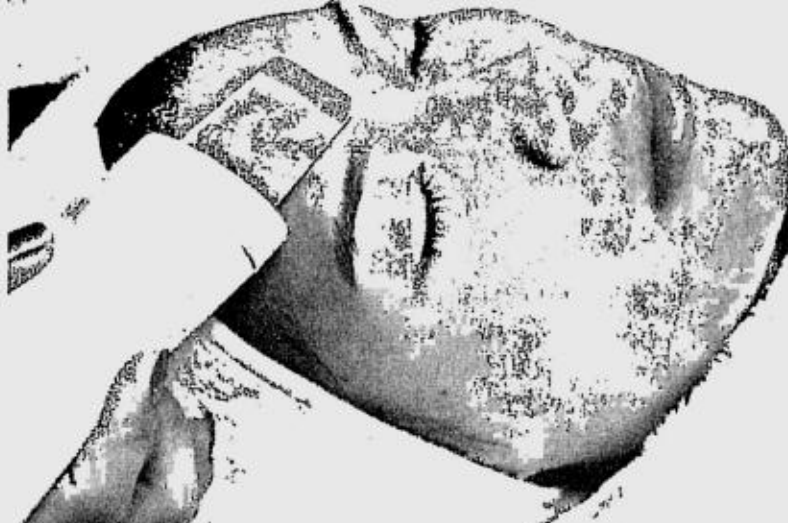
Painless

The clinic has been known to introduce relatively painless non-surgical facial rejuvenation procedures. Skin Master is the mother of all facials. It starts with the exfoliation of dead skin

The French surgical beauty treatment Starvac is Manila's best-kept secret

cells using ultrasound and hydro-oscillation. A blade prong vibrates at 25 cycles per minute over wet skin. This process sloughs off the dead cells without pain. An ultrasound device enables hydroquinone and other formulas to penetrate deeply into the skin. For fine lines, fine prongs conduct electricity to stimulate the cells. In turn, the process produces more collagen fibers to make the skin firmer. The blade is also used to apply gel so that the skin can easily absorb the moisture. To improve the circulation, the blade vibrates to stimulate the blood circulation. The skin appears plump, with a moist rehydrated look due to elastin, collagen and a cushioning of fat under the skin. Good circulation beneath the surface results in a "glowing look."

For more uplifting news, call Belo Medical Group at 817-7178 and 637-3676.



MOTHER of all facials

PHOTO BY CHITO VECINA

Your friendly neighborhood cosmetic surgeon

BY MARGIE T. ESTRELLA

DR. Vicki Belo spends her life making "self-improvement" a reality for many people. For some, self-improvement should start from within, but sometimes a little external help can do wonders for how a person sees herself.

For 11 years, Dr. Belo has been practicing dermatological surgery. From small problems like crow's feet to more complex procedures such as liposuction, her clinic can handle most people's trouble spots.

Although the economy has slowed down considerably, people haven't stopped coming for their treatment, which is a bit costly but well worth it, Dr. Belo and her associates try their best to provide their patients with smoother skin, slimmer thighs and other facial or body care using the most up-to-date technology.

Clinic meets spa

After studying in Thailand's Institute of Dermatology, Dr. Belo put up her first clinic at Medical Towers in Makati in 1990. Now, she is trying to integrate both the medical and aesthetic aspects in one location. Her new clinic on Tomas Morato looks more like a spa than a hospital. The cold, sterile atmosphere that usually comes with cosmetic surgery is replaced with a calm and relaxed environment to ease the nerves of patients and prospective clients. Her lobby is decorated with sculptures by Impy Pilapil. There, one is graciously offered the complimentary cappuccino and juice. More importantly, there are ample information pamphlets on the available treatments as well as a running video for patients to view while they're waiting. The lighter ambience is in line with the clinic's more holistic approach to cosmetic surgery. Aside from the clinical procedures that take place, the clinic also has a salon for post-treatment touch-ups.

According to Dr. Belo, "Some treatments are performed while the patient is lying down. By the time it's finished, the client wants to fix herself up before leaving the clinic." Other clinic branches also have accompanying services. For instance, in Makati, post-liposuction patients can avail of Pilates sessions for muscle tone.

Dr. Belo popularized facial rejuvenation treatments. Her clinic was the first to introduce the botulinum toxin or Botox, a potent toxin, which administered in small doses, can treat facial lines such as crow's feet, forehead furrows and neck bands. It blocks nerve impulses to facial muscles,

relaxing them so they don't create furrows. The treatments last some four months.

Old problems, new methods

Derma fillers, such as Restylane, plumps up the skin. It is useful for lips, nasolabial folds and scars. Blepharoplasty or eyelid surgery removes excess skin, fat and muscle around the eyes to lift hooded eyelids and diminish eye bags.

Microdermabrasion or Power Peel uses a highly controlled vacuum to move fine, sand-like crystals across the skin to treat imperfections. It can temporarily reduce pore size.

Laser treatments have become more in demand than chemical peels, which tend to be abrasive. Laser resurfacing encourages new collagen production and a fresh surface to the skin with the removal of damaged upper layers using carbon dioxide or erbium laser beam. Microdermabrasion and laser resurfacing are preferable to a face-lift because they don't involve pulling the facial muscle layers.

Another laser called the Diode laser liquefies the fat before liposuction so the fat will be easier to remove. There are also machines to help diminish cellulite, under-eye circles and even a machine for breast enlargement without the use of implants. Dr. Belo tests all these methods on herself before even considering introducing them to the public. The staff also must undergo in-depth training as well as go through tests before dealing with any of the patients. The majority of the treatments require an average of eight sessions. One of the most popular in the Tomas Morato clinic uses the rapid healing properties of oxygen to make the skin appear younger and firmer. The procedure is pricey but popular because the Morato clinic is frequented by working women who are willing to pay extra to look better. Dr. Belo says that the working woman is more likely to spend more since they have complete control of how they spend their money. Moreover, it's no secret that one's appearance has a great impact in most social situations.

Although the beauty business is a fruitful one, competition is becoming rather intense so there's a need to come up with a way to make Dr. Belo's clinics stand out from the rest.

She says business has slowed down in the past month, especially since the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon in the United States. But no matter what, there will always be a market for cosmetic surgery and skin treatments. As Dr. Belo puts it, "The best investment one can make is to invest in oneself."

Call 373-3355 or 373-4088.

It's the season for brown and amber

HAIR for today's modern woman focuses on what is wearable, chic and uncomplicated.

Current trends put the emphasis on texture, pliability and volume. They are more subdued and entail only minimal styling. Crispin Britanico, creative director of Hairbytes Salon, said, "It is what's easy to do and stylish at the same time. At Hairbytes, we focus on what our clients want and what looks good on them. It's all a matter of doing it the right way."

The colors of earth dominate this season with distinct browns and amber reds.

At the cosmetic end, the natural look is still very much in but with a dewy glittery flair. Gold and silver shimmering highlights enhance and open up the eyes while rust and brown bring out innate sensuality. Nude tints and rosy blushes create a natural healthy glow.

Hairbytes has six salon outlets around Metro Manila: Greenhills (across Club Filipino), San Antonio (Forbes Park), Shangri-La, Gamboa, Katipunan (Prince

HAIRBYTES TRIO. Lucy Britanico, Crispin Britanico and Imelda Miram



David Condominium) and Alabang (Casa Susana Building).

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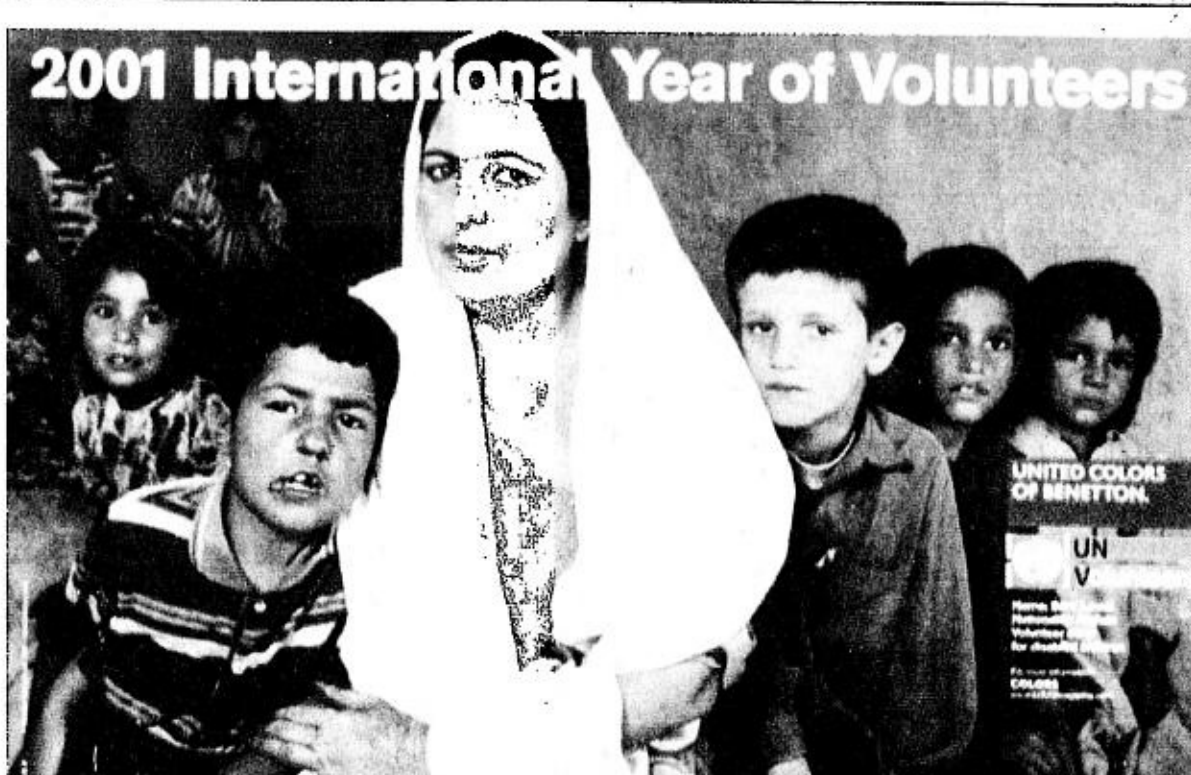
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THE PROPHETIC campaign



SARA Lewal, an Afghan, was forced to leave because of the civil war and now lives in a refugee village in Pakistan where she runs a daily crèche for disabled children.

New Benetton ad courts controversy—again

THE NEW Benetton campaign may reap again unexpected controversy. On the one hand, the campaign has trained international focus on the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) at a time when the UN and its secretary-general, Kofi Annan, have been named this year's recipients of the Nobel Peace Prize. On the other, the new campaign features an Afghan UN volunteer in the refugee camp in Pakistan. Critics say the ad smacks of bad taste and exploitation considering the situation in Afghanistan, the target of intense air attacks by the United States for its alleged coddling of international terrorists.

But Benetton says the campaign was conceptualized before the Sept. 11 attack on the World Trade Center.

The new campaign, called "Volunteers in Color," is a pitch for volunteerism and "all those who elect to work for the good of others, without prejudice," Benetton said in a statement. It was made in response to the declaration of 2001 as the International Year of Volunteers. "In fact, the volunteer effort constitutes a real opportunity to give a deeper meaning to our life and is one of the most vital and positive examples to young people around the world."

According to UNV executive coordinator Sharon Capeling-Alakija, "The International Year of Volunteers was declared to highlight this enormous force. The Benetton campaign makes an important contribution to getting volunteers off the sidelines and into the center of public attention. It shows volunteers for what they are: the glue that holds society together."

Afghan volunteer

The new ad features Tajidin Agah, an Afghan volunteer leader of a refugee camp in Pakistan. Tajidin was a landowner in Afghanistan who found himself at the Jalozai camp—a sea of makeshift tents on a barren plain.

"People trust me and want me to fight for their rights. I can't escape this responsibility," he said. "I have to care not just for my family or my tribe, but for every tent of the 14,000 families here. I can't sleep. I get between two and five hours, if I'm lucky, and my dreams are always the same. I call out in my sleep: 'come here, move away, do this, do that' because that's what I do all day. In the morning I pray and then I walk around to see who doesn't have food."

However, concerns at refugee camps are more than just food, water and shelter. "All we are asking for is that which is our right: peace and freedom. The world has closed its eyes to Afghanistan. I can't bear to see my people like this. This camp is like a graveyard for the living."

The ad's implications to the US attacks on Afghanistan are clear. But controversy is not new to Benetton.

The Italian fashion house has built its marketing reputation—and its world-famous brand name is among the most recognizable in the world—through the use of international and homogeneous advertising campaigns characterized by universal themes.

The former head of advertising of the fashion house, photographer Oliviero Toscani, created campaigns that provoked and even enraged many.

The campaigns used



DENIM jackets are livened up with Swatch accessories.

MODELS: RISSA SAMSON, TIM YAP
HAIR AND MAKEUP BY STEVEN DOLOSO



MULTITASKING. The collection features clothes and bags for many uses.

shocking images to highlight such issues as race relations, AIDS, religion, sports, war and sex, while drawing attention, albeit sometimes excessive negative attention, to the company's name.

According to Bonn, Germany, where the UNV is headquartered, insufficient attention is given to the social and economic value of volunteer work. Volunteerism can account for as much as 8-14 percent of a country's gross domestic product. In the United States, for example, the volunteer workforce represents an output value of \$225 billion every year.

Benetton bag

In the Philippines, Benetton is a leading fashion name. Its clothes, bags and accessories are great consumer favorites.

Despite the stiff competition by other foreign brands and smuggled goods, Gift Gate, the exclusive distributor, maintains the integrity of Benetton. The clothes are made in Italy, which has a tradition of textile and fashion. (Only promotional merchandise and accessories are made in China and India.)

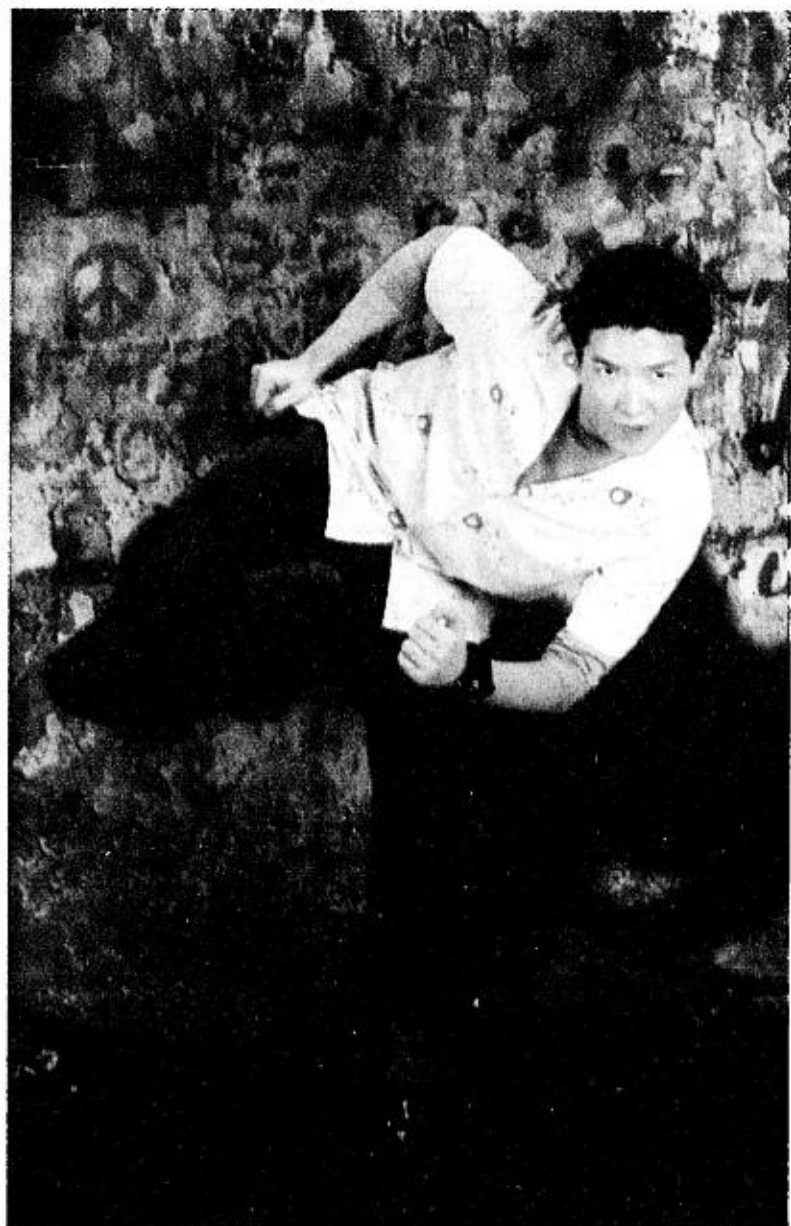
Benetton's greatest strength is brand awareness. It has been in the top 100 list of the most recognizable brand names in the world. The Italian fashion house produces and sells 80 million garments every year in 120 countries and over 5,000 retail stores.

Unlike other international retail, Benetton does not operate on a franchise system. It does not dictate local retail prices in a given territory. Although the parent company can recommend standard retail prices, local costs are dependent on the conditions of the immediate market. Benetton prices in the Philippines are 20 percent cheaper than Hong Kong.

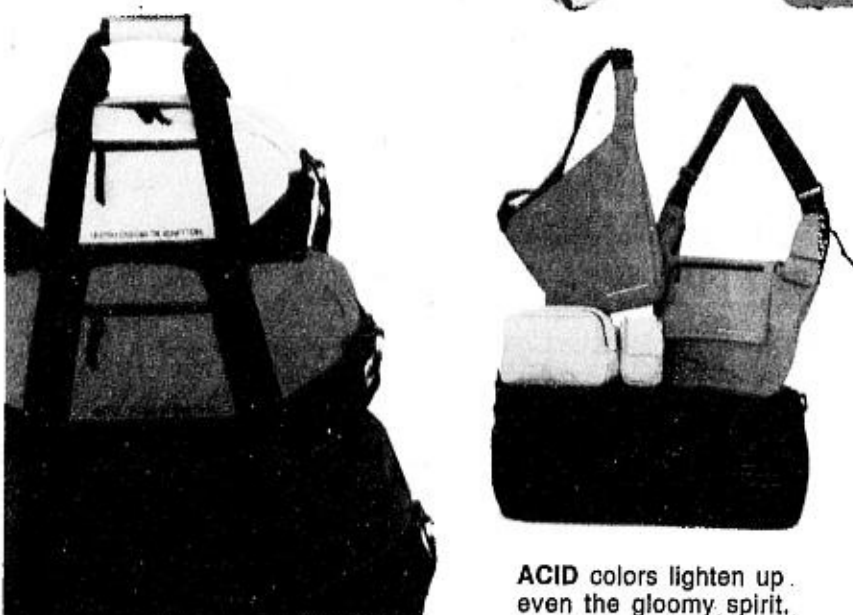
The image of an Afghan volunteer leader in a refugee camp hits too close to home. But the campaign was conceived before the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the US



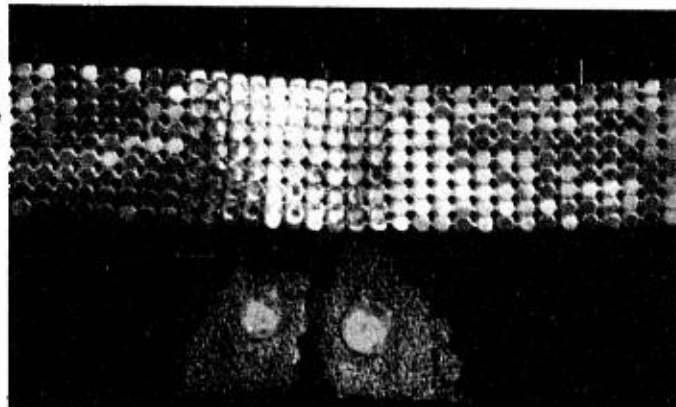
SIMPLICITY is reflected in the absence of excess details. The lean style makes it easy to pair the item with any garment. It goes beyond trend and time.



PRINTS reflect the neo-romantic mood.



ACID colors lighten up even the gloomy spirit.



METALLIC gold bracelet with pink accents, P1,995

BLACK bag with embroidery and beading, P1,250



LONG drop earrings in colorful stones, P425

The holiday look

GO BY CAMILLE T. CRUZ
PHOTOS BY CHITO VECINA

for things
shiny in the
run-up to
the holidays

SOMETIMES what excites the shopper most is ambience. It is the whole package of a brand and store that may appeal to the consumer.

Mai Tai has brought that kind of appeal. Its ambience is similar to Shanghai Tang. But its scale is smaller. This little store can be seen at an angle from the entertainment section of the

Alabang Town Center. On display are padded cubes featuring rhinestone earrings, bracelets and necklaces. These pieces make a great holiday selection.

Beside the display are a number of tank tops in sequin studs and bright festive colors. These pieces symbolize modern confidence and style. These can be worn with a pair of jeans or simple straight-leg slacks.

Accessories include rhinestone and metals, such as metallic bronze, gold bangle and sequined pink belt. Jewelry can be plain sequins, anything metallic and semiprecious.

E-mail the author at camille_cruz@hotmail.com

Items from Mai Tai,
124A New Entertainment Complex, Ayala
Alabang Town Center



PINK sequined belt, P595



BLACK V-neck T-shirt with girl print, P575



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Galileo • Brilla • Tutuban Center • Metropolis, Alabang • Inus • Lee Bades • Coco • Samsat • Samsat

** Iloilo promo starts Oct. 5, 2001.

*** One (1) winner per branch.

See posters and flyers for details.

Per DTNCR Permit 2250 Series of 2001



ROBINSONS SUPERMARKET



PHILIPPINE delegation at the Asian Dance Sport Championship arrived last Monday night from Taiwan. Photo shows Becky Garcia (second from left) and Gloria Alcala (left), amateur Latin event bronze cup winner Bong Marquez and Belinda Adora (center), Richard Obong and Flora Lagarao, Edgar Borromeo and Ana Yango, Brian and Karla Ocana, and Rommel Yhallo Rebecca Vasaylaji.

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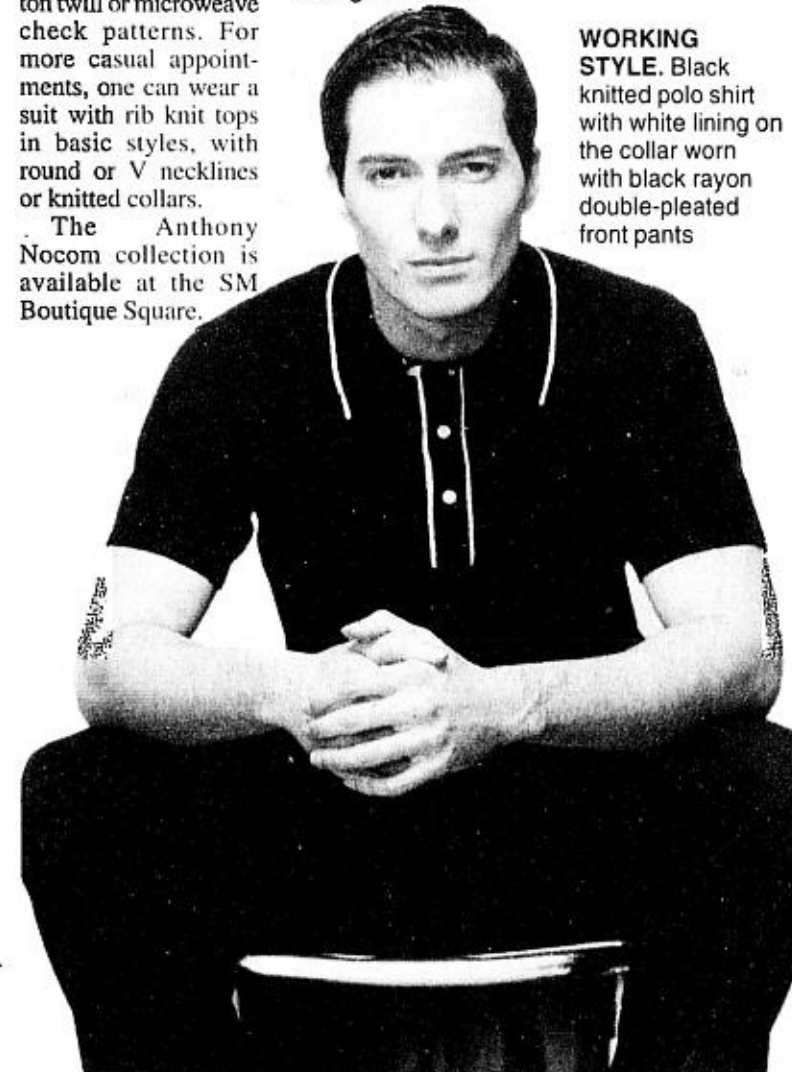
Anthony Nocom's latest collection for the SM Boutique Square comes in one-, two-, three-button-style jackets and in flat front, single- or double-pleated pants. Fabrics are striped, patterned and in stretch cotton, wool blends and linens. Shades are suited for success—browns and blues, black, grays—and natural tones in sand, camel, vanilla and cream.

Nocom recommends that his suits be worn with "shirts and neckties or with knitted tops, depending on one's work situation." For more formal occasions, they can be worn with shirts in fine cotton twill or microweave check patterns. For more casual appointments, one can wear a suit with rib knit tops in basic styles, with round or V necklines or knitted collars.

The Anthony Nocom collection is available at the SM Boutique Square.



CONTRASTING IDEAS. Pecan brown single-breasted, two-button jacket with peak lapel is worn over mint green ramie linen shirt with hidden button down collar and trapunto stitch pocket flap detailing for strong contrast



WORKING STYLE. Black knitted polo shirt with white lining on the collar worn with black rayon double-pleated front pants

STREET JEANS & SHIRTS



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SUIT TALES. Three-buttoned single-breasted khaki jacket with slim high-notched lapel and matching low-waist cut single-pleated go with iridescent shirt and silk tie



A BRONZE Orissa sculpture from India on a steel tray by Markus Schmidt from Firma rests on a Barbara Barry ottoman in artichoke dupioni silk. A Venetian Fortuny lamp in handpainted silk looms above the setting.

Beauty starts with a hot shower bath. P705.17 x 12

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ARIVA
WATER HEATERS

BY AVIE GOCHOCO-PEREZ
PHOTOS BY CHITO VECINA
CONCEPTUALIZATION BY ALBERT AVELLANA

UP ON the 36th floor of the Rizal Tower at Rockwell, that newest ultra-posh bit of earth near the Pasig River, is Chito Vijandre's 300 sq m of calm elegance, of gentle minimalism, of virtual agelessness. Unlike other interior designers whose works jump at you, or jar you, or numb

your interest with a surfeit of regrettably expensive clutter, Vijandre's work is unobtrusive, serenely functional, refined.

The lady who chose Vijandre to carve a personalized living space out of her Rockwell unit virtually gave him *carte blanche* for the task. Her instructions were only to have "everything very neat" although, Vijandre offers, she was at the same time "very exacting" and "didn't want to leave anything to chance." In their trips together to Hong Kong and New York, the interior designer saw how "meticulously" his client chose furniture and other accessories that, anyway, sat well with him as designer. It helped flesh out just the right character for the condo unit: the result is a marriage of the client's taste and the designer's touch. Besides, care really had to be taken to flesh out the unit, being the way it was.

"Here, you can't say, 'I want French provincial,' and get away with such a strict theme," says Vijandre. Its environment—it is a high-rise condo with a wraparound vista of the metropolis at its feet—practically "dictates" the look it is to have so that "you can't really come out with your fantasy in a condo like this." To sidestep the limitation, both client and designer borrowed from various eras and influences to give the unit its soul.

Thus, a baroque couch sits alongside an antique Japanese altar table in this corner of Rockwell. And so it is that a pair of shiny hammered silver stools from India accents a bitter-chocolate-colored cotton velvet couch by Vijandre. But so it is also that, although a "hodge-podge of influences" defines the unit, Vijandre does have a knack for making them sit harmoniously in as modern a setting as this one. That all the walls are painted in unobtrusive ivory—he calls the color *crème anglaise*—gives free rein to the select pieces on show in the entire living and dining areas to stand out. *Crème anglaise* also bathes the space in tranquility.

A Fortuny

The first thing that perhaps captures attention as one enters the unit is the ceiling lamp over the formal dining table. It is a reissue of an old lamp by the famous fashion designer Fortuny who lived in Venice, Italy during the late 1800s to the early 1900s and "started the Grecian pleats look" in fashion, says Vijandre. The lamp is made of stretched silk and looks like a charming upturned umbrella with swirls of hand-painting against a beige backdrop.

Along the corridor from the foyer is a Gus Albor piece, a large, abstract painting and a choice of the lady of the house. Vijandre, for

this unit at least, stayed away from paintings here, there and everywhere, unlike other designers who easily turn to such to dress up condo units. The Albor work is perhaps one of his rare concessions to art in this unit. Almost fronting the Albor work is an antique Chinese cabinet whose double doors Vijandre opens to reveal a bar.

As interior designer, Vijandre knows his role is to fine-tune his client's taste and to polish it. He made the switch from fashion design to interior design in 1985 when he felt he had peaked in fashion and wanted to go into something less "ephemeral" than clothes worn once or twice then consigned to the closet afterward. "I wanted a more lasting outlet for my creativity," he says. In interior design, people *live* in the spaces he creates, and that makes Vijandre happier.

Demanding

But the job appears more demanding. One must know his client a lot better, which comes easy for Vijandre, thankfully. "I like interacting with clients. I get to know them more. When I designed clothes, I talked to them for just a few minutes, *may pagka-ephemeral*," he recalls. But not so with interior design. Today, he interviews his potential clients over lunch to know their preferences. If lunchtime is not enough, he "drags them to dinner" as well.

From experience, he finds male clients "straightforward. There is no grayness in between." Women clients are more roundabout. They "want more romance and also have preset wants, but sometimes don't know how to articulate them as well as the men." But, he is quick to add, "there are also men who are wishy-washy!"

In decision-making, "career couples always go 50-50," but with married couples the burden of decision-

MIXING/p.D2

Chito
Vijandre's
designs are
unobtrusive,
serenely
functional
and refined

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WHAT'S ON AT ROBINSONS

FAMILY FUN WEEKENDS

HATAW SAYAW KIDDIE DANCE CONTEST

Calling all kiddies! Boogie on down to Robinsons Place Imus and show off your dancing skills in the elimination rounds.

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Sundays, 4PM
Fountain Area
Robinsons Place Imus

ROBINSONS Place IMUS

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Silk blouse courtesy of Silk Cocoon.

VANDOL RASH-PROOFING TIPS

When baby's diapers get really wet and baby's skin gets soaked up for a long time, don't put diapers again immediately. Expose baby's skin for 15 to 30 minutes to allow it to breathe, then apply Vitamins A and D Vandol before you put new diapers.

VITAMINS A & D VANDOL

Schering-Plough Corporation A Leader in Allergy And Dermatology

Mixing patina of the old with sleekness of the new

(From page D1)

making falls on the woman who stays home and therefore her preferences would rule what goes into the home.

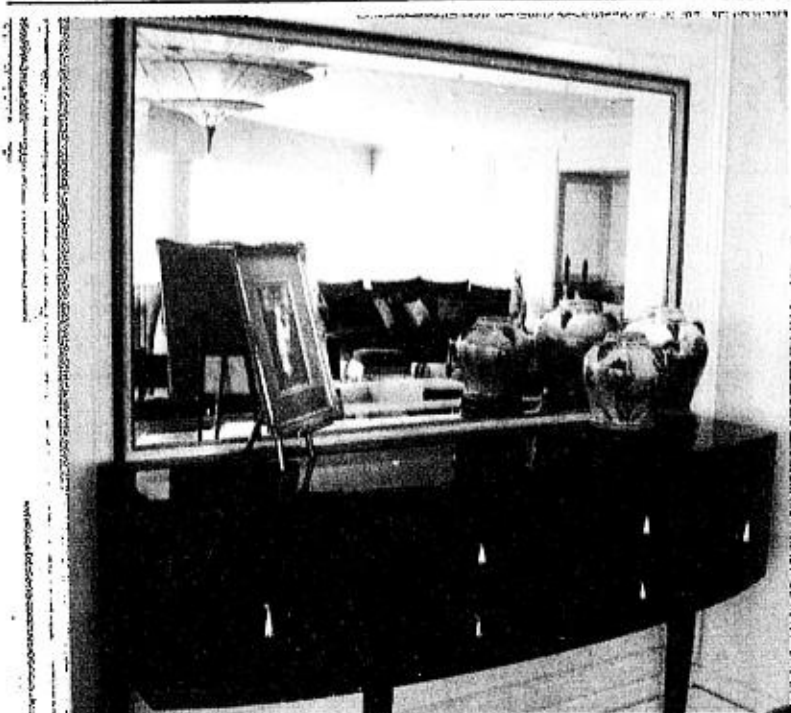
The ideal client-designer relationship for Vijandre involves a client who "respects my designs and I respect her needs."

For the Rockwell unit, the client was "very responsive" to his suggestions. The same was true for moviedom's Mother Lily Monteverde whose 14-bedroom house in Greenhills Vijandre dressed up. From the start, the designer was warned Mother Lily would be "a very difficult client, but she turned out to be a darling," he smiles. Other favorite

clients are the "Potencianos of PLDT and all their children" and Ben Chan's "eight or 10 Bench stores when they were just starting out and even two abroad, in Singapore and Saudi Arabia, in the '80s."

Difficulties

It took about a year and a half to do the Rockwell unit due to difficulties encountered along the way. Client didn't like the way the condo's floors were varnished and wanted them redone. There was a need to carve a dirty kitchen out of the large maids' room, entailing additional plumbing and electrical lines. Vijandre dressed up the unit's walls with paneling, cornices, molding, niches



ATOP a maple and oak buffet table by Michael Vanderbyl are a French 19th-century gilded mirror, an oil portrait and Qing Dynasty jars



A DIVINE tea setting to view the sunset—overscaled chairs and ottoman in artichoke dupioni silk by Barbara Barry; bronze Orissa sculpture, steel ashtray, candleholder and tray by Markus Schmidt at Firma.

and disguised cabinets.

Although the unit has three bedrooms, one has been converted into an "English-inspired drawing room" or a den-cum-library. It is small but feels large due to the "overscaled" leather couch Vijandre plopped diagonally in the middle of the room. The feel here is one of luxury and masculinity, with the black of the couch dramatically setting off the warmth of the orange walls.

Another bedroom is done in yellow for the son of the lady of the house who lives with her. His TV and audio equipment are kept in a Chinese lacquered cabinet across his sleigh bed.

In the living room, a niche has been punched into the wall, which faces the wraparound glass, offering a vista of the entire metropolis. The niche is large enough to seat perhaps two to three persons and is upholstered in olive-colored silk. The vista dictated that several conversation areas be scattered around the living space. Vijandre did this without resorting to tall, obtrusive screens or dividers, which would only cut up the space. He let the furnishings and accessories, like tall candlesticks, divide the spaces. His favorite spot is the "conversation nook" in the far corner of the living room. He likes the way it offers a view of the entire living

and dining rooms, with the vista of the metropolis beyond.

Practically all the furniture in the living room are set on the diagonal to get that "inviting, not stiff" look. Helping to unify the whole is an original Art Deco carpet from China, which blankets the main space in the living room. Vijandre and his client found the carpet in New York. "There was this company that found, in China, a *bodega* full of those Art Deco carpets and bought the whole lot," Vijandre says.

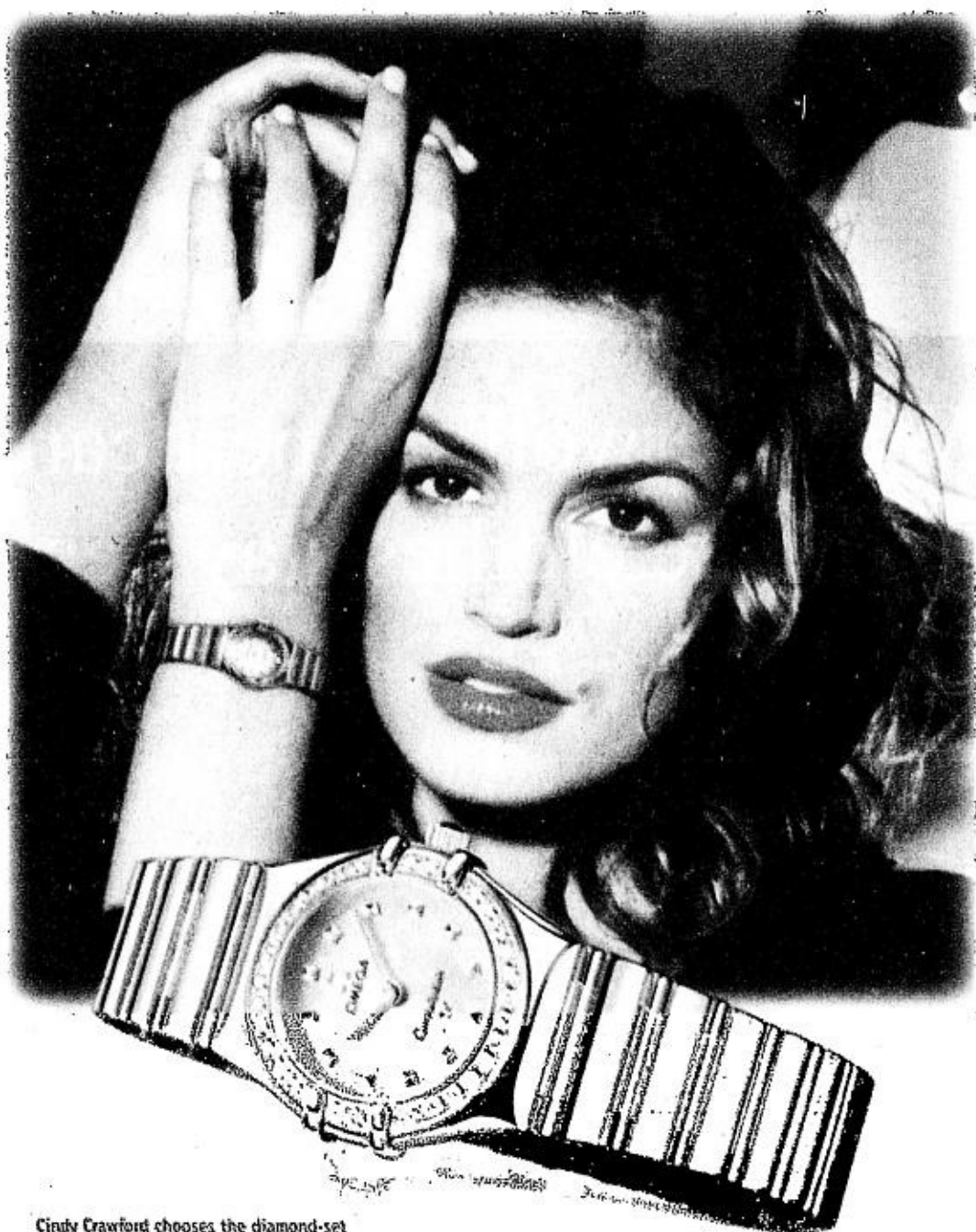
A Tang Dynasty figure of a court lady, done in terra cotta and which must have been unearthed from a burial site in ancient China, now stands atop a coffee table. Not far away from it stands an ancient Chinese limestone jar, said to have been a burial jar for a baby. The lady of the house apparently is fond of these relics, although others may balk at the thought of having the spirits of these strangers inhabit one's house. Vijandre's take on that: to each his own.

Philosophy

His design philosophy is, happily for clients, nonrestrictive. "I never dictate because I know they're going to live with it for many, many years." Besides, he insists: "You can put anything in your interior as long

MIXING/p.D3

Cindy Crawford's Choice



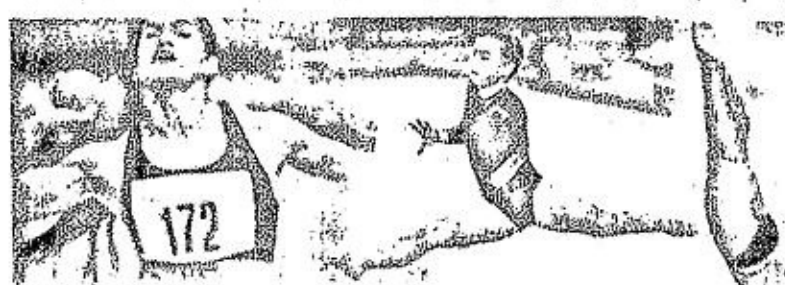
Cindy Crawford chooses the diamond-set Constellation in steel and 18 k gold

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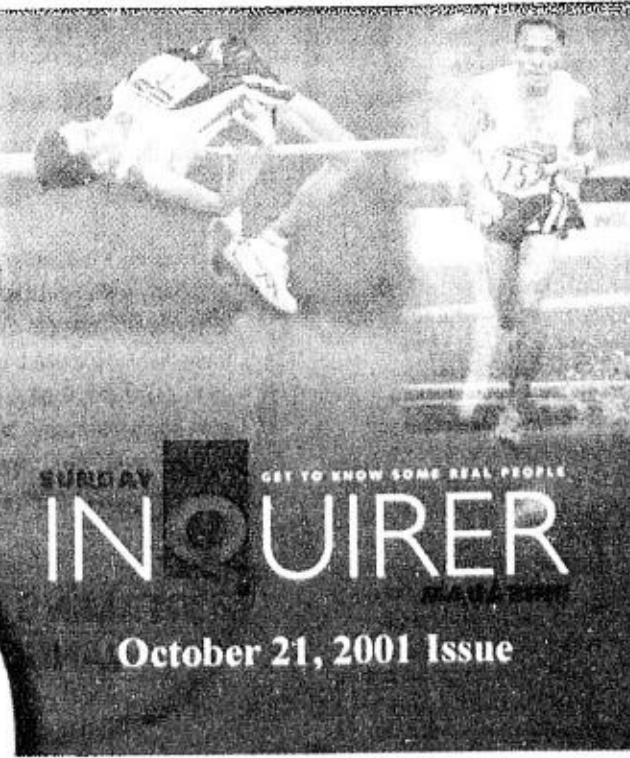


A COLLECTION of jeweled silk pillows by Chito Vijandre from Firma enlivens a chenille sofa in bitter chocolate.



Personal Best

Gretchen Malalad and the Medalists of the 21st SEA Games



SUNDAY GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE
INQUIRER

October 21, 2001 Issue

Mixing patina of the old with sleekness of the new

(From page D2)

as it pleases you. There is no rule."

Vijandre went minimalist in the Rockwell unit without the end product looking starkly, uncomfortably minimalist. "For me, minimalism is the intelligent way of editing out the trash. It is very difficult to edit your life because you're attached to memories, emotions," he says. The lady-owner of the unit wanted a new environment for herself and left her old house with only pictures of her loved ones, a collection of antique jars and clothes chucked in the moving van. Fact is, his advise to clients who go on trips abroad is not to load their luggage with cheap souvenirs whose significance is almost always lost on those who see them on display.

"Don't acquire 10 Hello Kitty things which you'll discard anyway. Instead of all the little *borololoy*, buy one thing of value for which the country you're

visiting is known. Go around looking for the best that you can afford," Vijandre says. Myanmar, for instance, is known for its lacquer ware, he adds, so while in Myanmar, go find the best lacquer piece you can afford and bring it home. This way, clutter doesn't weigh down your house.

Clutter-free

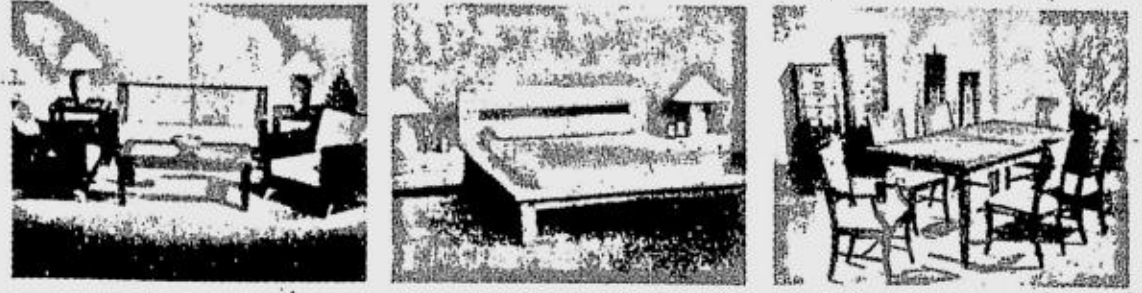
He likes to tell of his own experience in "uncluttering." "I'm such an acquisitive person," he says. "I would have things in storage. But I also put them out." During the rainy season, he brings out his darker-colored things and in summer, the lighter colors go on display. "Right after Christmas, I have everything cleaned. I do my spring cleaning." Another way is through a home-and-women's-accessories shop he and three of his friends set up about a year-and-a-half ago on

MIXING/p.D4



MATTE yellow ochre walls and cherry wood blinds in warm tones make a comfortable room for the young man whose audio-video center is housed in a 19th-century Chinese lacquered cabinet set across an Empire walnut sleigh bed. Easily accessible is the study station in functional Philippe Starck furniture. A portrait is "punished" in the corner.

Don't take this sitting down!



Rush to our showrooms and take home handcrafted wooden chairs, bedroom sets, dining sets and accessories at up to 50% off their regular prices.

The Designs Ligna Sale

October 13 to 28, 2001

SHOWROOMS: 2/F Almeda Arcade, Arnaiz Avenue, Ayala Center, Makati City 8453027 & 28
4/F Building B, Interior Center SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City 6340704 & 05

Big prizes await lucky shoppers

SHANGRI-LA Plaza Mall will give away 22 Pioneer products on the spot to lucky shoppers this October.

To be given away are the Pioneer video compact disc (VCD) player IS-21 and MT2000 products.

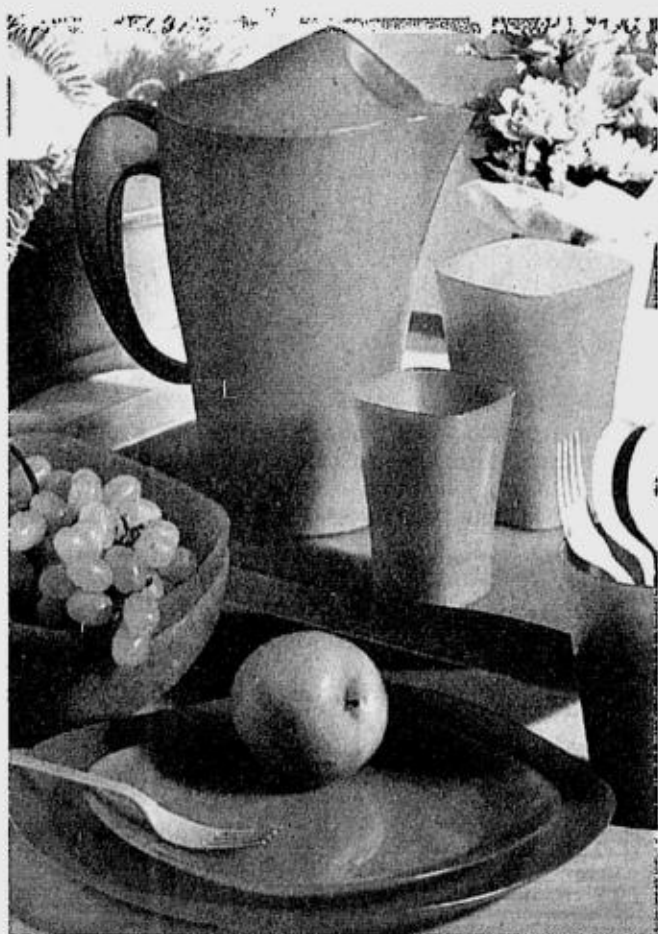
The October giveaways are part of the mall's "The Winning Streaks" treat. Aside from instant prizes, five week-end trips for two to Bangkok via Thai Airways, with accommodation at the Shangri-La Hotel Bangkok, will be raffled at the end of the month.

Pioneer VCD IS-21 is a mini system with advanced functions, including a separate high-power amplifier, vertical VCD-CD player, horizontal loading cassette deck and a television preset remote control.

The MT2000 has a 3-CD changer, an AM/FM tuner, a 16-centimeter-wide amplifier and remote control. It also has a sleep/wakeup timer.

To join, simply present proof of purchase from any of the mall's shops. Every P2,500 worth of receipt (single or accumulated on the same day) entitles a shopper to a coupon that qualifies him/her for the instant prize and the month-end raffle. To get the instant prize, a shopper must have three coupons with "Shangri-La," "Plaza" and the "S" logo.

"The Winning Streaks of the Shangri-La Plaza" ends Oct. 31.

Covered Pitcher **79.75ea**Tumblers, assorted sizes **14.75up**Scalloped plates, bowls **24.75up**

COLOR UP!

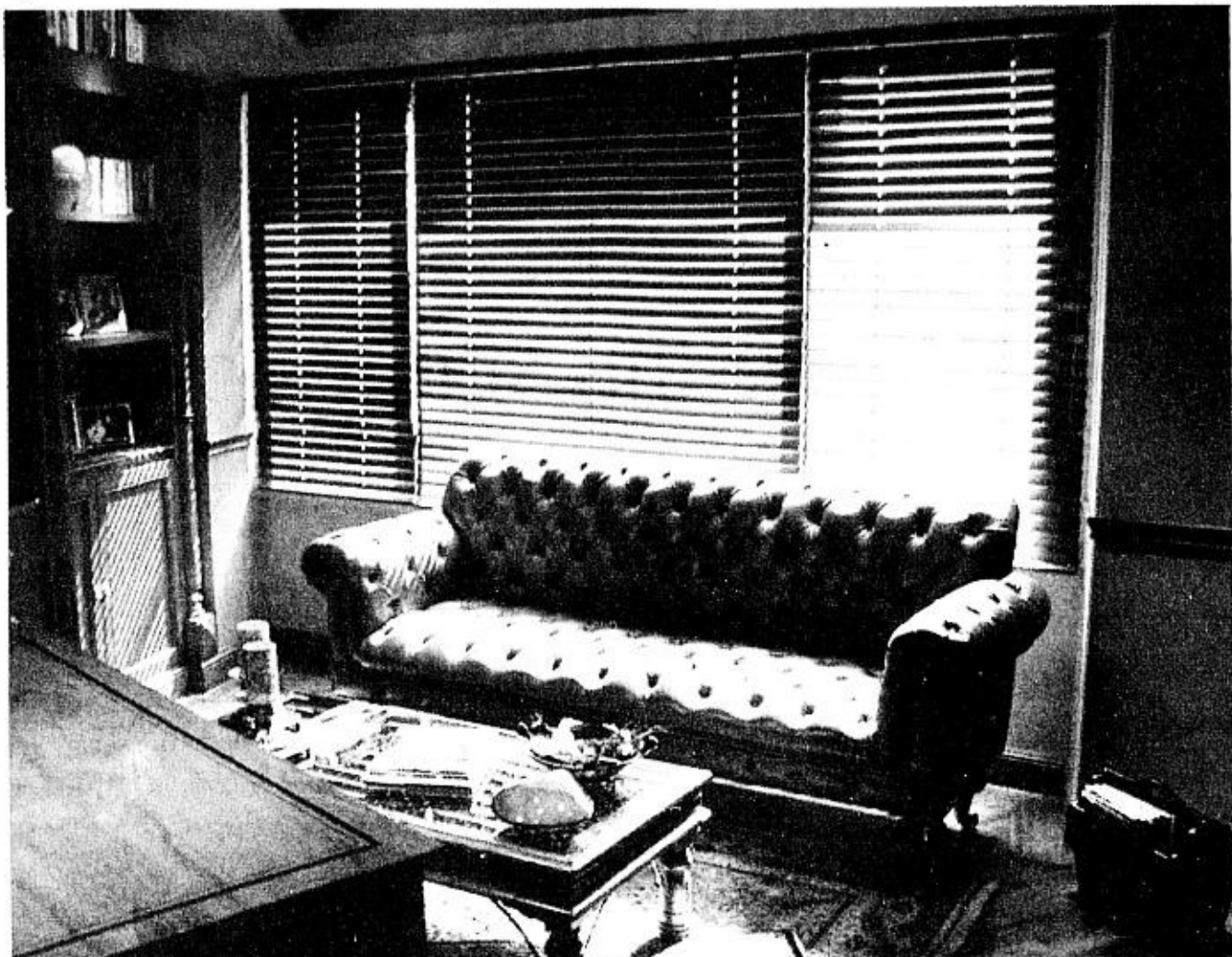
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We've got it all for you!

Deep bowls, square / round **19.75up**Colanders **59.75ea**Long stem refreshment servers **19.75up**Multi-purpose trays **69.75ea**

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POMPEIIAN orange walls, maple wood paneling, cherrywood blinds and layers of Persian carpets provide warmth in the English-inspired drawing room. Dominating the room is a leather Chesterfield sofa paired with an Indian colonial period teakwood and iron coffee table.

Mixing patina of the old with sleekness of the new

(From page D3)

Julio Nakpil Street in Manila. Called Firma, the shop is a venture among two gay couples—Vijandre and his “significant other,” Ricky Toledo, and Richard Danao and Markus Schmidt.

“We are all very acquisitive so we set up the shop. For our Moroccan Festival we brought in perforated silver. Before that, we had an Indian Fantasy where I got the silver stools for this unit. We like plundering countries,” he smiles. “We are 21st-century plunderers!” Business is booming for Firma “because no one is traveling” after the scare swept up by the Sept. 11 terrorist attack in New York City. Also in the works for the enterprising partners is a restaurant to be called “Fidel,” which will feature French Moroccan cuisine. “We love to entertain, too,” says Vijandre.

Vijandre is in his 40s and enjoying himself. He has seen his maturity in design evolve. When he was just starting out, he says the excitement in him drove his designs to be “busy.” That has changed. “Through the years your design tones down. You learn from your mistakes. You know what colors work and what don’t. The learning process comes only with age. In youth you would be more reactive. As you get older, you become more responsive. When you have the experience, you have calmer responses. You don’t react.”

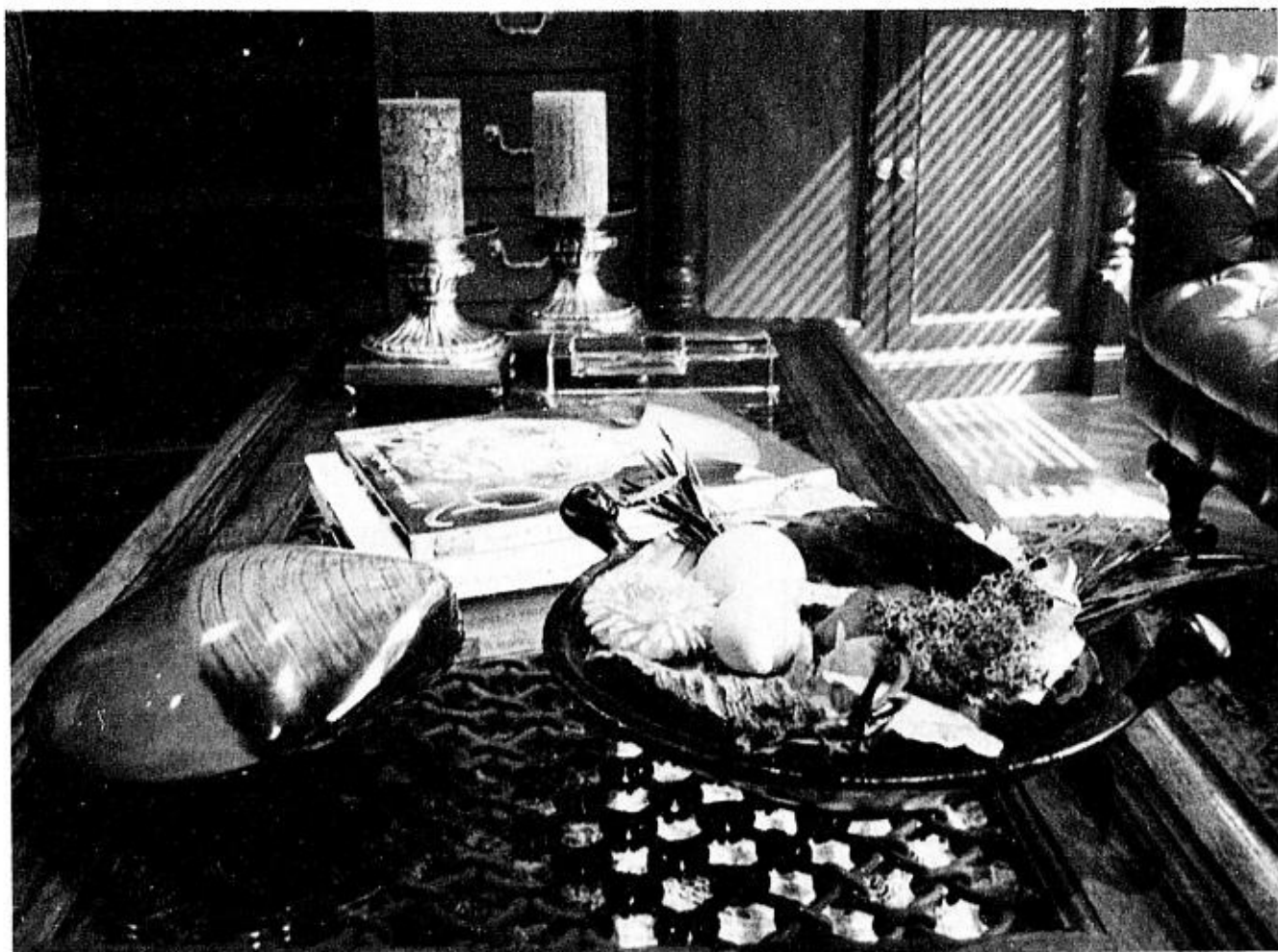
The most important ingredient in Vijandre’s design philosophy? It isn’t creativity, because creativity, he says, comes at any age, young or old. The key ingredient is “passion.” As long as you have passion in what you do, success is almost a given for him.



WALLS in creme anglaise with classic moldings provide a neutral backdrop for an exquisite collection of pieces in the sitting room—an original Art Deco carpet from China, 1800s Mughal silver repousse stools, a gilded opera love seat, an Edo altar table, a 19th-century *huanghuali* wedding cabinet and a Tang dynasty terra-cotta sculpture on a maple coffee table by Michael Vanderbyl.



A GILDED 18th-century opera love seat strikes interesting conversation with a contemporary oversealed coffee table by Michael Vanderbyl, with a *huanghuali* wedding cabinet staying in the background. Sterling Christofle candlesticks on an Edo lacquered altar table provide the backdrop for the Diva’s repartee.



AN IFUGAO wooden bowl used for potpourri, antique candlesticks and a Charlotte Horstman lacquered shell on an Indian colonial period iron and teakwood table provide divertissement in the library.

Center develops nature teachers

YOUNG people who care about the environment should look up an organization called Center for Environmental Awareness Education (or CEAE) that offers educators and teachers tools and ideas to enhance lesson plans for environmental subjects.

CEAE works through workshops and training seminars conducted by its coordinators and facilitators. Participants are, for the most part, teachers who want to enhance their nature teaching skills. They are provided with two books, actually curriculum and activity guides, which contain instructional material and suggested lesson plans for each topic under discussion.

One of the books, "Project Learning Tree," is especially geared for children from pre-kindergarten to eighth grade. The forest is used as the focal point of the activities that stimulate critical thinking skills in a holistic manner rather than bits and pieces of information.

The second book, "Project WET" (for Water Education for Teachers), focuses on the appreciation and protection of water as a resource vitally important to man's survival on this planet. Lessons it contains are for kindergarten up to the 12th grade. It has a collection of innovative, water-related activities that may be applied in many countries, the Philippines included, outside the United States.

More interesting

Useful, informative and exciting as these two curriculum-enhancing books are, we find the people who are making them available locally even more interesting. First, because their offerings make it possible for teachers to obtain the same skills without having to leave the country and spend more than double what is required here. Second, because the people behind CEAE are young and idealistic, eager to have the center counted as environmental NGO (non-governmental organization).

Most of the CEAE people hold jobs that allow them spare time for this endeavor while some are fresh out of college. But all are bound by one common thread—a concern for the environment. Their salaries come from participants' fees. As a nonprofit organization, making money is not the ultimate goal, but the center does need funds to keep its programs going.

Founder and executive director of CEAE is Jukka (pronounced Yukka) Holopainen, of Filipino-Finnish parentage, graduate of Ateneo University, English teacher and former staff member of the Haribon Foundation, which opened his eyes to the vast environmental problems facing the country and the world. He found out

that there was no lack of advocacies here, but many of these were confined to tree-planting and poster-making, which are fine but hardly enough. Holopainen felt that if initiatives were to be sustainable, they had to begin with the teachers who would transfer their knowledge to the pupils.

He is a firm believer in the power of teachers in this regard. For example, he says if 40 teachers participate in a CEAE training seminar and each of them handles, say, 30 to 40 students, think of how many young minds they will touch. It beats planting trees and making posters about nature anytime.

Going to the grassroots

He has also found out that to be sustainable, environmental education must be made available in the grassroots where teachers and stu-

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda



dents can have access to the CEAE type of training. That way the prospects of reaching young learners could be even greater. CEAE, Holopainen says, fills the need for educational material that could fire people's imagination, most of all, children's, for they have the most to lose from not knowing how their environment is faring.

So, when he learned that environmental education curriculum and activity guides from the US could be brought to the Philippines by

accredited people, he worked to obtain them. His team also had to go through extensive training, finding out in the process that the two books gave teachers the tools to teach young students not what, but how to think about the environment.

CEAE, organized in April 2000, is manned by four permanent staffers, including Holopainen. But at any given time, it can count on 20 volunteers who help in administrative work, and 20 facilitators and organizers (from Metro Manila and Cebu) who conduct the training workshops and seminars.

When it started, the center distributed brochures to schools with information on its educational system. The first training workshop was in December, eight months after the organization was set up. So far, it has worked with hundreds of teachers from in and out of Metro

Manila, participants coming from all teaching levels, from preschool to college, from formal to non-formal schools.

The CEAE team has found out that the farther from Manila they go, the more teachers/participants become receptive to the teaching modules.

Using common things

Each guidebook integrates nature lessons with whatever subject is being taken up. In many instances, students are made to take up roles to prove some scientific point. They are made to use everyday materials to know how nature works. For instance, when studying about ground water, students are asked to take a household sponge to simulate how wetlands capture, store and release water. The lessons make students keen observers and, what's more, they have fun in the process.

The teaching modules are a treasure trove for teachers in search of lively ideas that their students can easily identify with. Some of the teachers who took up the training courses were so enthused with the guidebooks, recalls Holopainen, they handled them with such care and even clasped them close to their hearts.

The ideas and suggestions are the inputs of thousands of educators and teachers in the US who utilized their expertise and specialization to come up with these exceptional, environmental teaching guides. The books have the imprimatur of state governments and environmental institutions so that each one represents what the best minds have put together.

The CEAE office is located at Unit 141 Virra Condominium, 500 P. Burgos, Bel-Air, Makati City; tel. 899-5660, 895-6031 to -39, local 141.

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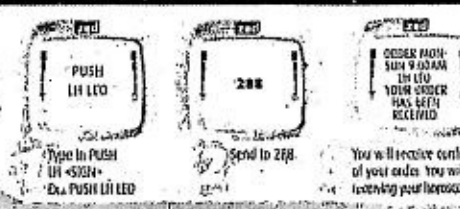


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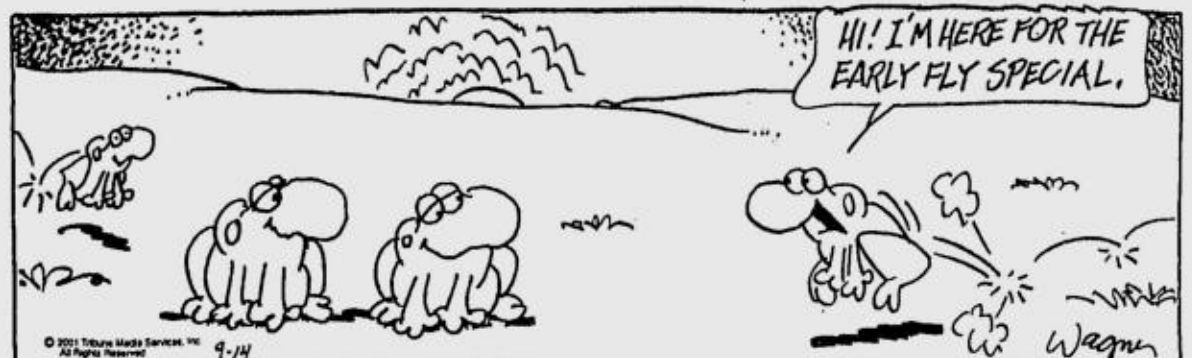


ANIMAL CRACKER

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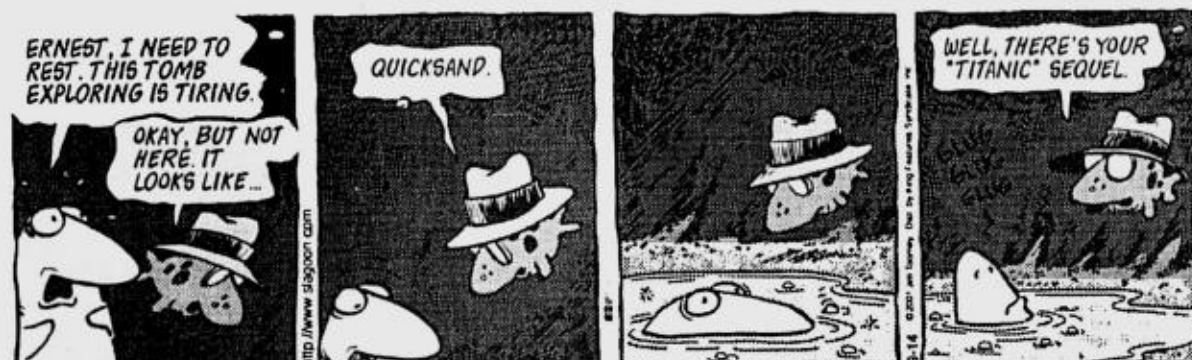


SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY

SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA



BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT

GARAPATA BLOOD

BY JOHN PAUL/BENG/MANIX



HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: John Lithgow, Omar Gooding, Jennifer Holliday, John Le Carre, Evander Holyfield

Happy Birthday: You are insightful, but must remain confident in your abilities to achieve your goals. Take time to center and reassure yourself. You need an outlet that will satisfy your desire to do something special or unique. Your numbers: 3, 15, 22, 23, 41, 45

ARIES (March 21-April 19): This is a perfect day to make changes to your home or yourself. Check into legitimate investments offered by individuals. Cash in an investment that has not been making any gains.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Get your own work done and forget about what everyone else is doing. Colleagues will not take kindly to you telling them what to do. Avoid becoming involved in others' personal affairs.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Changes at home will be difficult to adjust to, but everyone will benefit from the warm atmosphere you've created. Your generosity and hospitable nature will be appreciated.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You need a break. Your temper has been short and you're getting angry over trivial matters. Blaming everyone else doesn't change the reality that you're in dire need of some rest.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Get together with friends. Sharing thoughts will shed some light on your situation and you'll feel more confident about the decisions ahead.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Problems with colleagues may cause setbacks, but if you do your job and refuse to be drawn into arguments, you'll end up looking good.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Concentrate on your work. Lovers will interfere with your productivity. Confusion will result unless you sort out what you do and don't believe.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You won't take no for an answer today. Your determined nature may be hard on others, but your forcefulness will persuade everyone to follow your lead.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You may end up being the topic of conversation if you aren't careful talking about personal problems. It's time to discuss your problems with the person who is causing them.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Take a positive stand and make a worthwhile contribution to a charity group that you believe in, and you'll enhance your reputation. Your good deed will cast you in a favorable light when you run for a position soon.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): If you try to take on too much all at once, nothing will be accomplished. Problems with family will occur if you have been working so hard that you haven't spent much time with them.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): It's time to think of others and something especially nice for older relatives with, some limitations. Your ability to relate to children will close the generation gap.

Birthday Baby: Your drive pushes you to follow your hopes and dreams. You'll take on the world without a second thought. You are loyal, committed and forthright about your beliefs.

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON



MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL



HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER



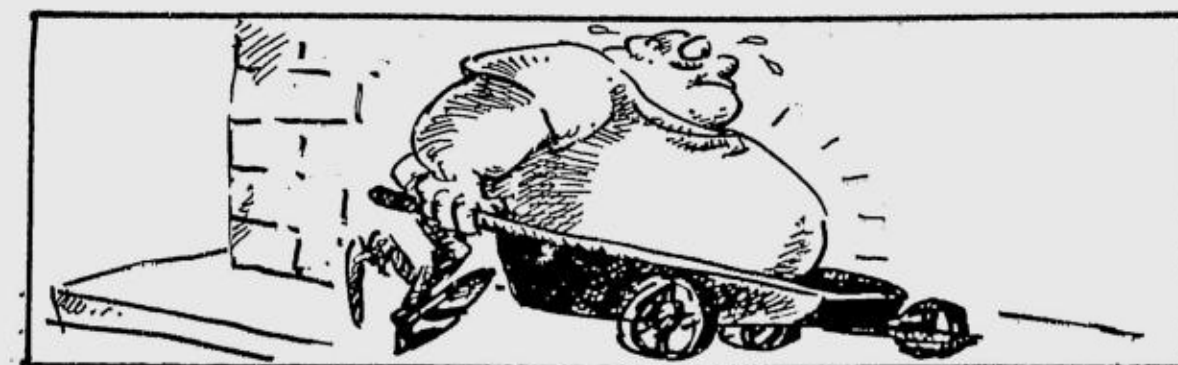
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

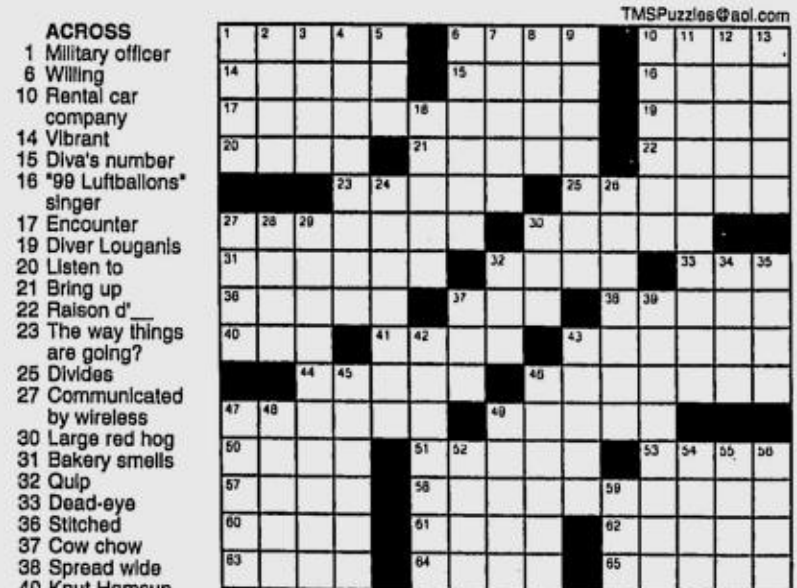


TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING



DAILY CROSSWORD



- ACROSS
- Military officer
 - Willing
 - Rental car company
 - Vibrant
 - Diva's number
 - '99 Luftballons singer
 - Encounter
 - Diver Louganis
 - Listen to
 - Bring up
 - Raison d'
 - The way things are going?
 - Divides
 - Communicated by wireless
 - Large red hog
 - Bakery smells
 - Quip
 - Dead-eye
 - Stitched
 - Cow chow
 - Spread wide
 - Knut Hamsun novel
 - Agenda topic
 - Faith
 - Groom oneself
 - Chewing gum choice
 - 'Honor Thy Father' author
 - blanche
 - Sorrowful exclamation
 - St. Louis pros
 - Madcap Martha
 - From left to right
 - Auspice
 - Woodwind
 - Relationship by degree
 - Stephen Sondheim musical, "Sweeney _"
 - Ring recurrently
 - Duck past
- DOWN
- Speed-of-sound number
 - Lotion additive, often
 - John Wayne movie, "Sands of Iwo _"
 - Worker's extra \$
 - FDR group
 - M1
 - Plant of the arum family
 - Wide shot
 - Relaxes
 - Dundee of boxing
 - From top to bottom
 - Totally unreactive
 - Wise men
 - Canadian tribe members
 - Tour workers
 - Current
 - Coarse file
 - Enviros
 - De-emphasized
 - Night follower
 - Gridlock
 - Normandy town
 - Jane _
 - Biddy
 - Fatherly
 - Woods' first stroke
 - Rental car company
 - Dispatch again
 - Book before Hosea
 - 78-card deck
 - Texas mission
 - Seasonal song
 - Gray wolf
 - Westernmost of the Aleutians
 - Domestic worker
 - gin fizz
 - Mine yield

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

D	C	A	B	F	A	M	E	H	E	R	O			
E	L	L	E	E	L	A	N	A	V	I	D			
B	E	U	L	A	H	L	A	N	D	P	I	C	O	
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FIRE FOR A FIERY LEGEND

With the designer Gianni Versace in mind, a "fiery" theme seems most appropriate for design office studio with a cultivated and affluent eclectic style. It includes a reclined wall with tufting and wall brackets. Versace's preference for classic furniture, such as the Savonarola chair and Neo-classic table, were also taken into account.—*Tantán Pambid, Ivy Aquilín*

The elements inspire interior design show

CLASS 2001 of the Philippine School of Interior Design (PSID) is holding an interior design exhibit inspired by the forces of nature starting today until Nov. 10 at the 9/F of the Urban Bank Plaza, Makati City.

The class' primary goal is to rediscover nature and reinterpret it through different designs. Forces of nature are divided into four elements: air, water, earth and fire. Innovative interpretations of the different elements also reflect modern ideas.

The exhibit features 30 booths featuring both residential and commercial

designs. Booths of the same element are grouped together in the exhibit hall. Designs aim not only to reflect the different elements but also to suit the Filipino lifestyle as it enters the 21st century.

PSID was founded in June 1967 by the Philippine Center for Interior Design Inc., a privately owned corporation made up of people in the interior design and furniture trades. It offers certificate courses in basic and advanced interior design and has tied up with De La Salle University-College of St. Benilde to offer students a Bachelor of Science degree in interior design.



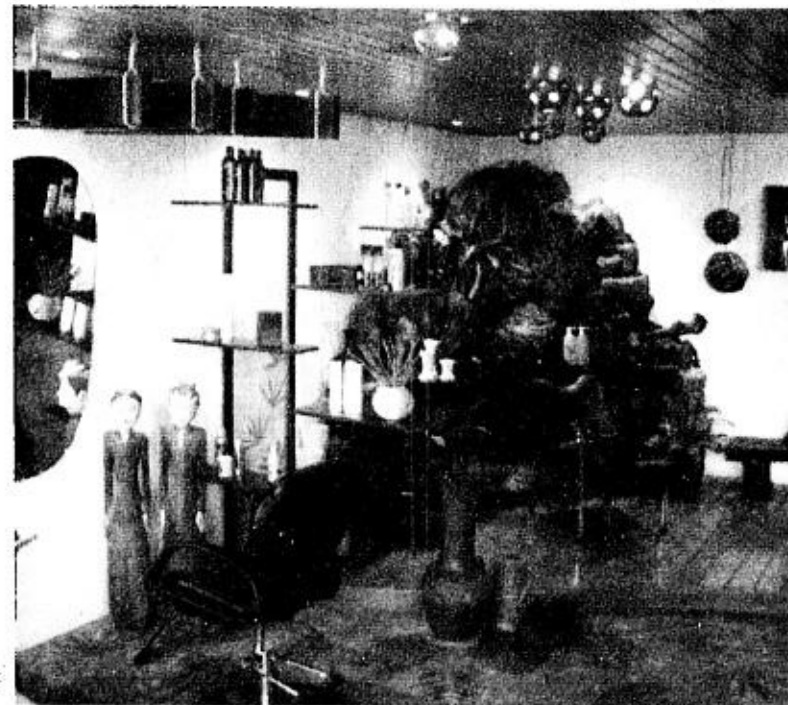
A FLUID CONCEPT

The living room in an executive's penthouse serves the purpose that the first element, water, represents—communication and feelings. The interiors suggest power, another characteristic of water, through the use of various materials: glass shelves, a textured wall that suggests an illusion of waves, and an "infinity" pool that flows into a breathtaking view of the city.

ISLAM INSPIRES BATHROOM

PHOTOS BY CHITO VECINA

The bathroom of a favored courtesan of the Moorish sultanate is filled with lavish decoration in deep hues. The decorative treatment of surfaces involving color and sophisticated systems of pattern making is an important aspect of Moorish design. Water is skillfully employed, often accompanied by the sound of birds and fountains thus, promoting peace and relaxation.—*Mariden Celemin, Honey Mutia*



SERENITY IN A HAIR SALON

Greek mythology's Gaia (the spirit of earth) is worshipped as the primal goddess. Water trickling down stone walls creates an atmosphere of serenity. Large leaf patterns are molded on the floor to create a mood of warmth and seclusion. The extensive use of wood on furniture and fixtures completes the "earthy" appeal the design attempts to achieve.—*Marilele Leviste, Kristine Tolentino Robert Espino*

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LIFESTYLE

Why people are talking about this book

THE BOOK "Patrick Rosas Images" is a rarity in the lifestyle scene—people can't find anything in it to bitch about. Usually, nothing is too good beyond bitching for a faction-torn Manila, but this one seems an exception. Even my impossible-to-please, contrarian friend Auggie Cordero, who, by the way, didn't agree to pose as Marlene Dietrich for the book, thinks it's really good.

I agree. This mammoth collaboration between perfectionist photographer Jun de Leon and trailblazing makeup artist Patrick Rosas is a first here, both as an image book and as a work of photography. The pair first told me of their ambitious plan more than a year ago, but I didn't think they could pull it off in this magnitude. I underestimated their passion.

For more than a year, Jun and Patrick worked on more than 100 of the country's lifestyle newsmakers, with Patrick making them over and styling them into characters that ranged from the theatrical, campy to the glamorous and even sublime. Jun proved he's the best people photographer in the country in the way he captured their facial features, their body, their character or their stance—that crucial moment before the lens when one's otherwise regular persona is transformed into a subject, the ultimate nature of which is for the photographer to shape. Working with and on people is an art, and Jun has mastered it.

Surprises

The gallery of surprises: Richard Tann turns into a tattooed musclemans, his bicep (I didn't know you still have that, Richard) accented with glitter. Marge Enriquez is a reed-thin ballerina, her eyes foreboding as usual. Cesar Montano's half-naked body is unadorned, but his tongue, hanging out, is given a reptile skin. Sam Eduque, who was jittery before the shoot for this was her first in years, is most beautiful as usual, her bare back a smooth canvas for shiny gems. Bencab is sheer character with his stare, with slashes of paint down his eyes. Wig Tysmans is a fully made-up bewigged woman—not gay, not transvestite, but woman. Tessa Prieto Valdes—how else can one reinvent this woman who reinvents herself in every night-out—is a surprise yet again, with a gem-studded crown of sculptured metal. Pepito Albert is Monalisa. Ces Drilon is all mannish-chic, with tobacco in hand and a fur shawl. Leica Carpo is a china doll, with curled red lashes, auburn buns for a crown and luscious red lips; hers is an awesome visual. For me the most beautiful execution is the extreme close-up of Margarita Fores, her face a sultry, stark beauty in its nude makeup, her neckpiece made of penne, spaghetti, vermicelli pasted together. Anton Barretto is covered in a monk's robe, baring only his hands painted in stripes of purple, pink and yellow. Anna Buenaventura is alluringly girlish in denim and a baby tee slashed on the shoulder. Nina Huang Tantoco has her best assets—those eyes and cheekbones—set off by a leopard skin top. Joyce Oreña is in *pintado* body suit, the consummate model still in that pose and figure.

(We heard also that the behind-the-scenes stories were just as interesting—like Imee Marcos coming to the shoot with two *bayong*-ful of jewelry, and when told that her concept would be simple, she said in her trademark wry wit, "I don't do simple. I am Imeldific." Her portrait was radiant, by the way.)

The wonder of it all is that no two visual concepts, no two makeup techniques are alike. In this book, Patrick the silent worker proves he's a master not only of the art of makeup but more so, of imaginative styling. And it is not belated. In the book, Patrick the daring stylist is born.

Running joke

All these years Jun and I have had a running joke about our age (he's older, of course) and how long we've been in our careers, until we made a gentleman's agreement: I should peg my age and he'll always be five years older, so if I'm 42, he's 47. What about 35, I told him. *Sobra na*, he barked on his cell.

But seriously, Jun has more than paid his dues. He was a fine arts major at UST when the Pontifical University still had no elevator—I'd kid him even to this day when our shoots in Metro magazine get so stressful and we need a break from the tension. He sneers and strikes back with his own jokes about me, which I'm not duty-bound to repeat here. Yet such jokes about our long-running careers are not just for laughs; they sweep us back to our formative years when we worked the daily beat for the broadsheets.

Jun covered everything, from news to sports to fashion; it was in the latter when our paths would cross in the coverages. I remember the sight of him perched on the moving Daily Express Land Cruiser, cameras slung on his shoulders, a band around his forehead, aiming for the best vantage view of the Good Friday procession. One day, he'd be out staking out the renegade Victor Corpuz or the Japanese straggler Oneda, or shooting the centuries-old mummies in the Northern caves; the next day he'd be posing models for a fashion spread. From hard news and sports, he went to fashion, portraits, show biz. He had covered it all—like a good soldier for his art.

Crossover

But after all this, he told me he got tired of being "one of the boys," that he wanted to

WHY/p.E3

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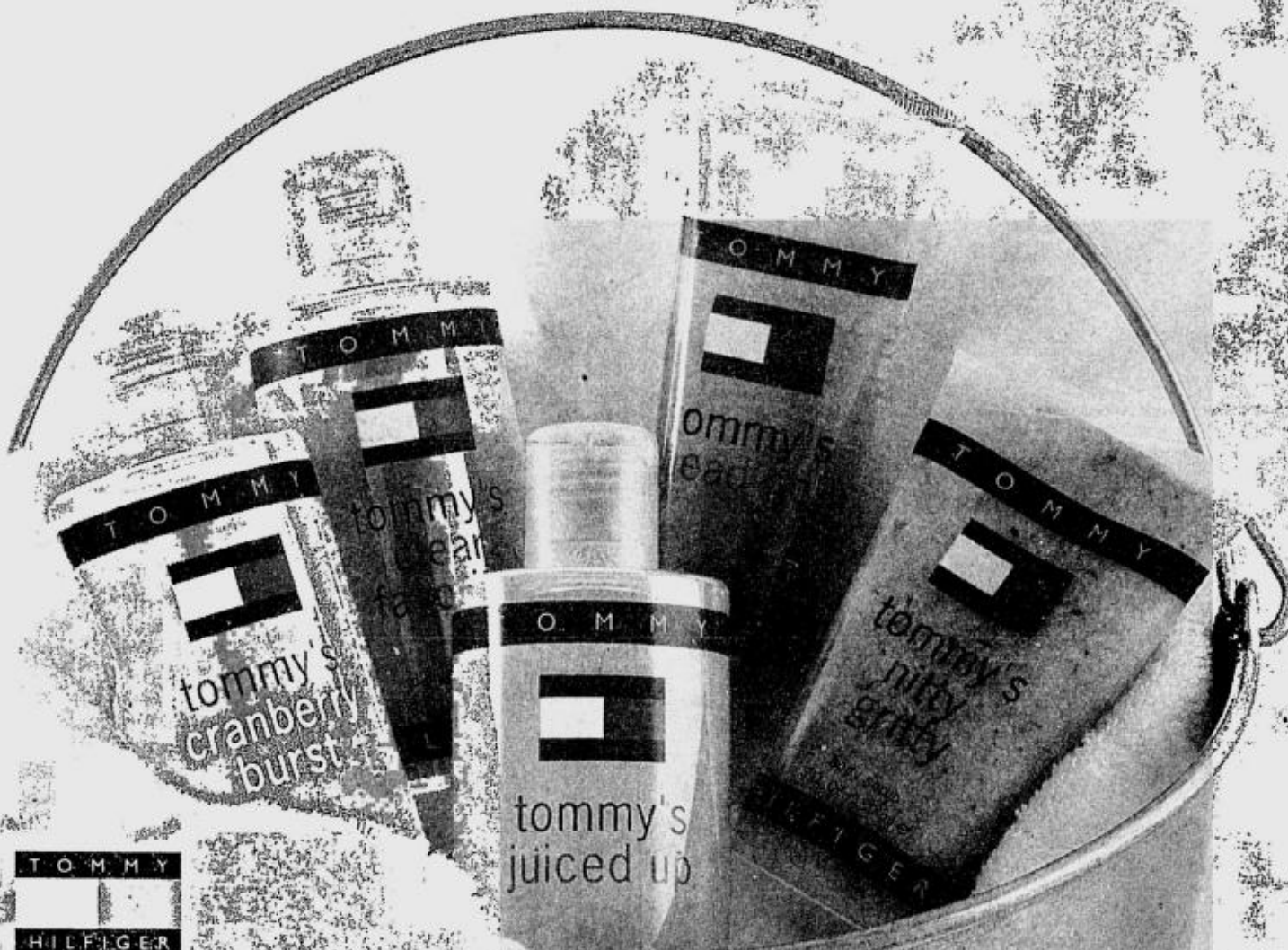
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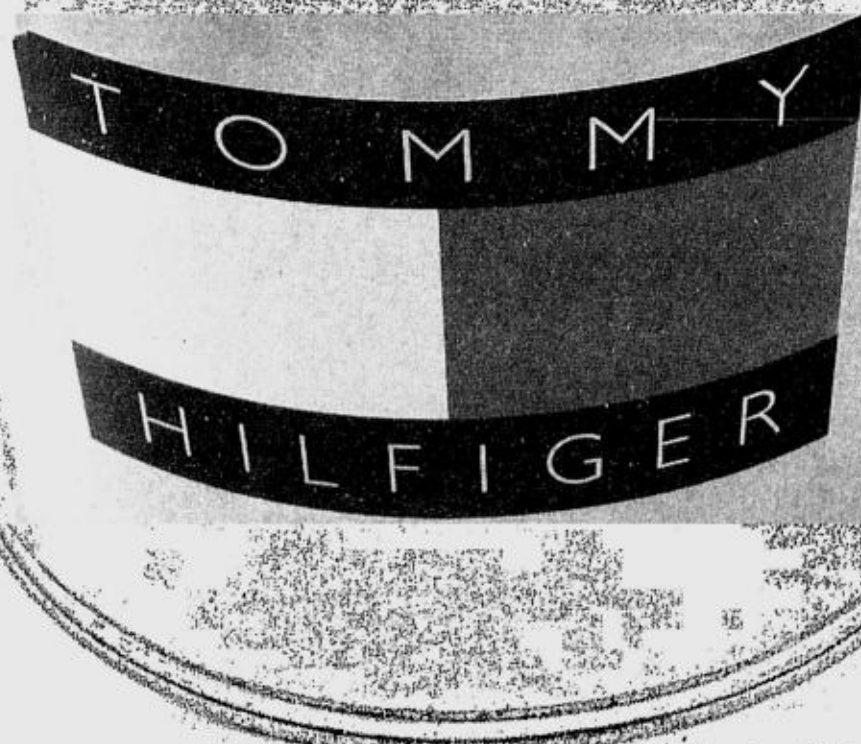
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H I L F I G E R

Visions pure, glamorous, and then some

BY CHERISH GARCIA-HERNANDEZ

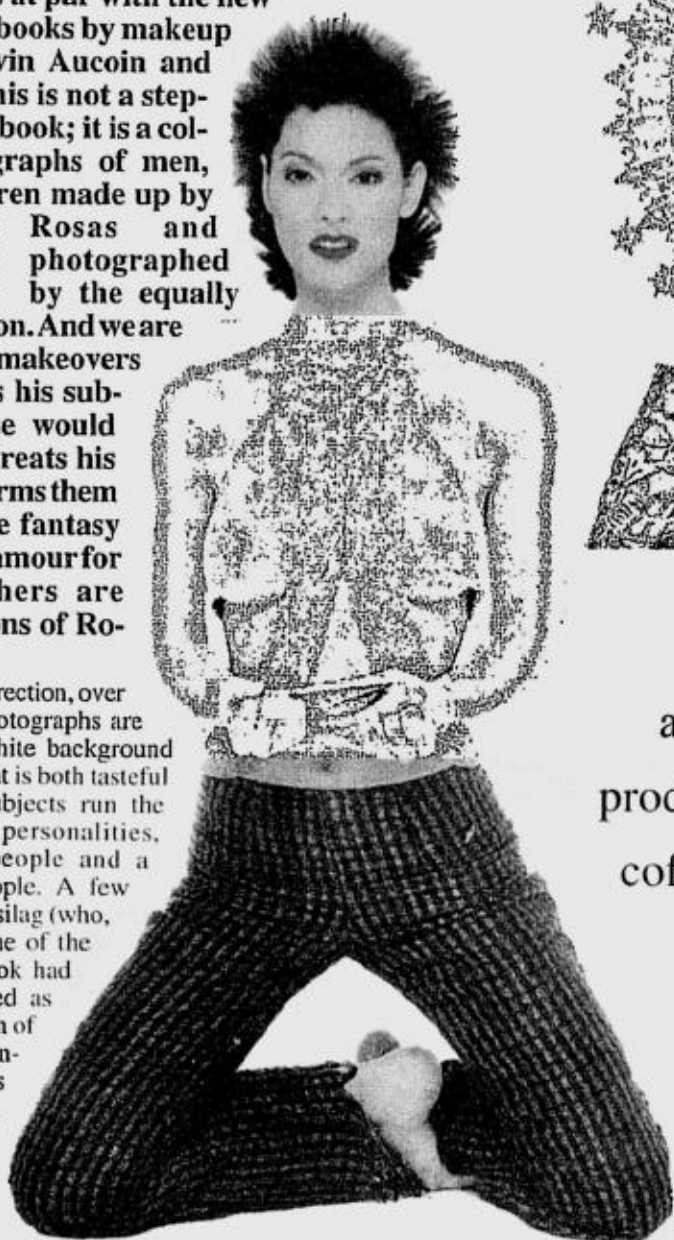
MAKEUP artist Patrick Rosas has produced the first beauty book in the Philippines that is at par with the new breed of makeup books by makeup gods such as Kevin Aucoin and Francois Nars. This is not a step-by-step "how-to" book; it is a collection of photographs of men, women and children made up by

Rosas and photographed by the equally

talented Jun de Leon. And we are not talking simple makeovers here. Rosas treats his subjects the way one would assume an artist treats his canvas. He transforms them into visions—pure fantasy for a few, all out glamour for others. Still, others are creative expressions of Rosas.

With excellent art direction, over 100 stunning color photographs are dropped on a stark-white background to produce an effect that is both tasteful and dazzling. The subjects run the gamut of show-biz personalities, socialites, fashion people and a number of media people. A few artists like Lucrecia Kasilag (who, in our opinion, had one of the freshest smiles the book had to offer) were included as well. With the exception of Rep. Imee Marcos, conspicuously absent was anyone from the political arena. We don't know the criteria Patrick Rosas used to choose whom to include in the book, but

DESIGNER Jolie Lloren makes a pun on the fashion icon.



JOEY Mead in bondage



Patrick Rosas and Jun de Leon have produced the first beauty coffee-table book in the Philippines whose quality is at par with the new breed of makeup books in the West

we feel a more varied mix of Philippine society would have been ideal. However, we must keep in mind that the people featured were probably those who orbit around Rosas' world and for various reasons may be sources of inspiration for him.

Elusive

There is a modern Vanity Fair feel to most of the photographs in the book. This was where those with that elusive X-factor came to play. Some subjects had it, and they played the camera for all its worth. A few, on the other hand, did not seem to understand what they wanted to project. The result was a "neither here nor there" uncomfortable half-baked look. Those photographs ended up looking like lame efforts to do an Annie Leibovitz or Herb Ritts. Sadly, when a subject has no personality, the best lighting in the world and a makeup genius like Patrick Rosas can't do much.

It's easy to tell who makes an impact because you remember their pictures after going through the book just once. Singer Jaya was particularly stunning as was her mom Elizabeth Ramsey. Susan Reyes, who hardly had any makeup on, looked beautiful even if part of her face was hidden behind a high collar. Izza Agana's headshot was uncluttered and simple, but somehow striking. Tessa Prieto Valdez had a radiant "fall" look and the result was sensational.

There were also inspired choices like Rajo Laurel as a sumo wrestler. Rajo's picture was great because he really went for it. Anton Baretto in a monk's outfit was particularly interesting because he had an ambiguous expression that could have meant anything from mocking to wistful and serious. And anyone who has met petite Michelle Sison would know that she is perfect as Tinker Bell in a very Lady Miss Kier (Deelite) look. Artist Bencab's painted face was remarkably sinister and playful, while Bea Lucero Lhuillier was surprisingly at ease in black fishnet stockings and boots. It was also a great idea to have Margarita Fores wear neckpiece made of different kinds of pasta.

Intense stare

We loved Leica Carpo's photograph. She had her eyes shut, displaying the longest faux fire engine red eyelashes we had ever seen. It was emphasized by black liquid liner on top of her lids and finely painted Clara Bow lips. Two "siopao buns" on her hair completed the look. The composition of Ching Cruz's photograph with varying sizes of black polka dots on a white background, both on her dress and on several other fabrics, made for interesting visual as well. Others worth noting were Marge Enriquez in an all-black Martha Graham ensemble and dramatic eye makeup; Isabel Rocas as a Pocahontas reincarnation; Anna Bayle, dressed in nothing but a sarong, in a series of mother-and-child photographs; and Angelo Villanueva for the simple reason that he gave the camera the most intense stare we had ever seen by anyone in a bustier!

The absence of any text was the only downside of this book. Maybe the intent was to avoid detracting from the photographs. We think a few quotes or something similar might have been nice, though. However, overall, it is a very well produced book, im-



CAPTURING Antonio Garcia's Spanish aire



PATRICK Rosas and Jun de Leon in New York

pressively finished in a mere 16 months, considering the obvious amount of work put into it. Efforts like this should be applauded for the simple reason that despite of what is going on around us, there are people still focusing their energies on creating something positive or beautiful and using whatever medium suits them best. This is precisely what Patrick Rosas and Jun de Leon succeeded in doing with "Images."

E-mail the author at cherishgh@yahoo.com

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MARKUS Schmidt's gender-bent portrait is reminiscent of the ironic humor in "Cabaret."

Why people

(From page E1)

experiment more and that one day he'd have his own studio and prove that photography was art. He did it—and as it turned out, his art never made him age a day older. He's one of the few photojournalists who was able to cross over to doing photography both as art and business.

Jun belongs to that breed of photojournalists and photographers who live for their art, for that moment, that image, they believe they alone could capture with their camera. We were inspired by our colleagues Ed Santiago, Noli Yamsuan, Manny Goloyugo and many more who live on the esteem that their photography yields. These are photographers who use not the laboratory or computer techniques—but their bare eye, to compose the picture and capture the moment, to play with light and shadow and texture. Put them in the most primitive conditions, in whatever lighting and motion, and they will produce. The image happens in their mind, not in their laboratory or computer. Nothing interferes between reality and their camera.

I miss such breed of photographers.

If Jun is enjoying a windfall these days it's because he soldiered on. He never gave up photography, not even when the demand was down. It amazes me how he's continued to learn to this day. He's never jaded to face any challenge. In our newspaper years, he worked briefly for a fashion magazine in Singapore. Since he struck out on his own the past two decades, he's made it a point to study abroad every year, to look at the works of photography greats in the US and discover the new hardware in trade exhibits. He's off this week for New York for more discoveries and learnings.

"This is a business where business is second," he tells me about his profession.

Stories of professional commitment such as this one take your mind off the bad news.

Others

We ran into... Larrrie Silva at the Inno Sotto show who told us that his departure from Rustan's will be marked with a good official announcement that will take us back to his long career... Jodie Lloren who, after his training in Paris, is in the thick of things again... Larry Cruz who's finally launching his coffee-table book on the Malate lifestyle on Oct. 31... A super-svelte Margarita Fores who told us that at last she's fully recovered from her accident in a London street. She was hit by a vehicle and had to be rushed to the hospital in an ambulance... We got a call from Carla Tengco to correct the caption of her photo last Friday. She was in a Pepito Albert, not an Inno Sotto, in the Inno Sotto show... Apparently where President Macapagal-Arroyo's dressing is concerned, it's open season for designers. She wears an Inno Sotto, Joe Salazar, Roy Gonzales of R.T. Paras, apart from her staple of J.C. Buendia. She's gifted by friends with couture stuff, that's why.

E-mail the author at tsanjuan@skyinet.net



Water-based bra cups give natural cleavage

TRIUMPH Int'l. launched recently its Maximizer AquaSoft Bra.

The new product enhances the cleavage and curves. The cups lift the bustline up and inward to create a visible cleavage. The special pads, filled with a water-based liquid, make the experience unique with their snug but ultra light feel.

The Maximizer gives a feeling that is breezy, comfortable and amazingly natural.

Triumph's new AquaSoft Maximizer Bra comes in two feminine lace styles. The Balconette is to be worn with blouses with deep necklines while the Detachable Straps model is ideal for haltered and sleeveless blouses.

Both styles are available in ivory white, black, puff gold and light blue. They also come with a matching lace bikini-cut panty.

Until Dec. 31, every purchase of one AquaSoft Bra at any Triumph counter comes with a free washbag and a free fan. Triumph's Maximizer AquaSoft Bra is now available in all leading department stores nationwide.

New York lingerie line made for the Filipina

BODY Naturals Phils., an affiliate of Body Naturals Intimate Fashions New York, will soon launch a complete line of comfortable, stylish and affordable lingerie specifically designed for today's Filipino woman.

The new products are designed to meet the modern Filipina's demanding lifestyle.

Exclusively distributed by top garment exporter Gelmart Philippines Inc., Body Naturals' new line combines the finest fabrics and softest materials—imported yarns, polyester fiber, adhesives and resins—for lingerie that feels and looks good.

The lingerie will be both feminine and functional, with world-class designs. It represents excellent value for money.

Body Naturals' wide range of items include bras, panties and girdles, with colors that are both appealing and contemporary, and in popular sizes. The new collection addresses the needs of different types of women.

She gives up a good job to end an affair

DEAR Tita Dulce,

It took some courage to write this, but I felt it was something I must do. This is also a reaction to the letter of Adulterous (PDI Lifestyle, 07/29/01).

Yes, I was in the same boat ages ago. It lasted more than 15 years—never mind the heartaches, embarrassment and pain. What one does for love! The ones who promise they will leave their wives hardly ever do. I waited long enough and it never happened.

The man involved was my former boss. Like me, he was married with a child. I was able to go back to school, learn new skills and move fast up the corporate ladder. While I did not need his support, I admit I still enjoyed the attention and the flattery.

One day, I was in church while I was

LIVE AND
LET LIVE



Tita Dulce

on an out-of-town assignment and found myself going to confession. The priest was different. He seemed to have time for me and, before I knew it, I was telling him my whole life story and my awful sins. His advice was for me to return to the Lord. What if I were to die tonight, would I be ready to face Him? I knew the answer was no.

I had a difficult time leaving and, when I said goodbye, I was sure my boss knew I

was not telling him everything. It was hard to go on seeing him. I left a very comfortable and high-paying job on the pretext of going abroad.

I found employment elsewhere with a very low salary. The pay cut was painful, but a small price to pay for the serenity I now feel. To make it easier, I stayed away from my former office and our common friends. When people wanted to talk about him, I subtly changed the topic.

Yes, it was hard and I am still paying the price. I feel it most when sales are low and I have many expenses. My husband and I are fine, and my child is happy to see more of me since I have fewer social activities.

I hope and pray that Adulterous follows your advice before it is too late.

Thank you for the help and advice you give to your readers. Just because we do not write you doesn't mean you weren't able to help us.

SECOND LEASE ON LIFE

Thank you for sharing your experience. What you said about going to confession was even much better than my advice. You see, experience is the best teacher. The best way is to teach by example. Congratulations on the peace and happiness in your home now.

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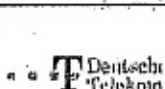
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BLONDES Lizza Nakpil and Rico Blanco



PATRICK Rosas and Sandy Prieto-Romualdez



JOSINE Elizalde and Bencab



ANTON and Nina Huang flank Gina de Venecia



JUN de Leon with his kids



LIZZIE Zobel and Mia Borromeo



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RICHARD Tann



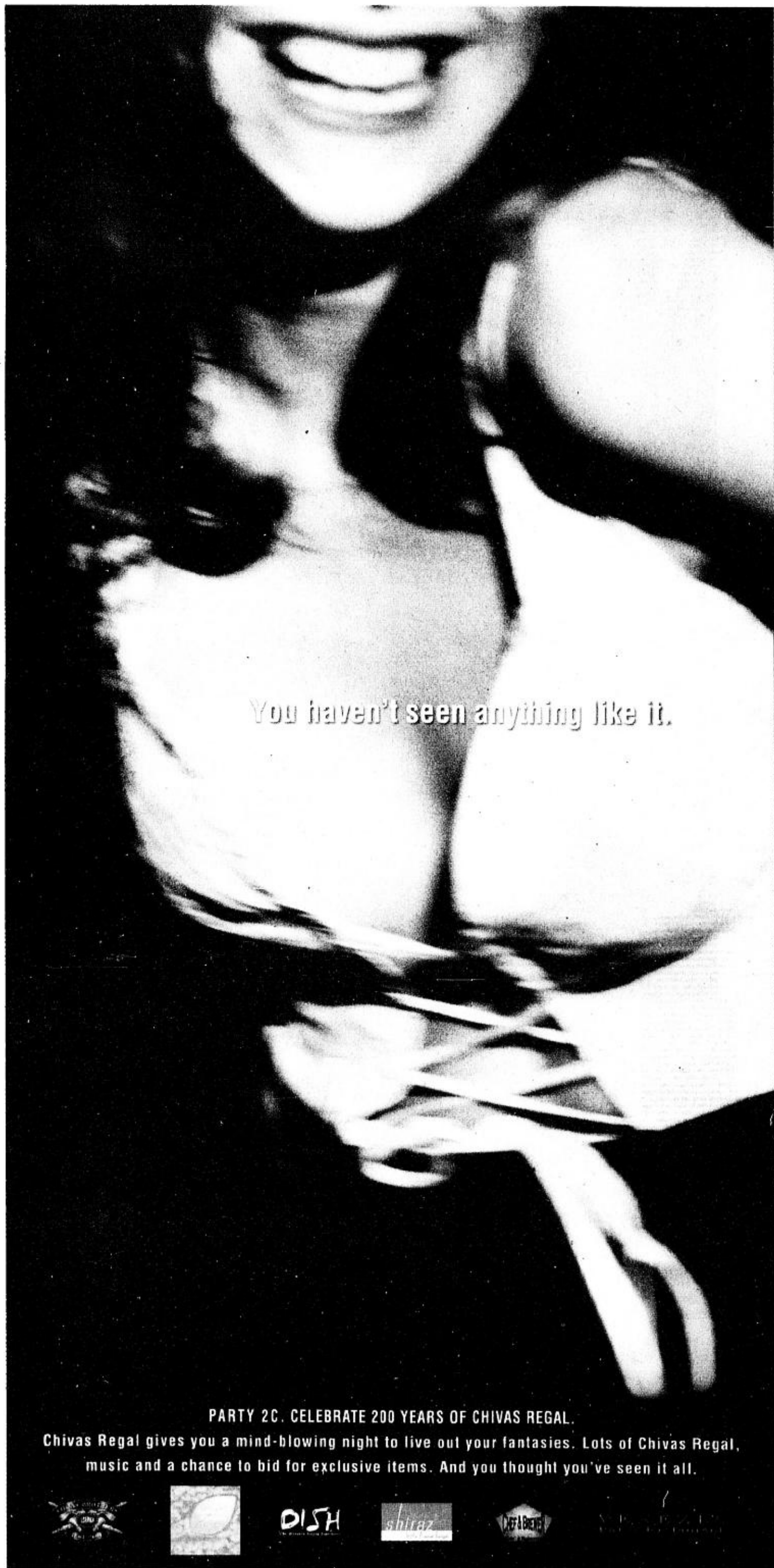
ABBYGAYLE Arenas de Leon with son Irijah



ALVIN Lim and Gaita Fores sign in



SUSAN Reyes and Maurice Arcache



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Meeting Patrick's circle

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY RAUL TEEHANKEE

JUN de Leon is one of the country's top photographers while Patrick Rosas has been dubbed a "magician" when it comes to makeup. I've known Jun for the past 20 years, and he is one of the reasons I went into photography. "You have the eye," he said. I met Patrick on several occasions. He is highly regarded by peers for his world-class talent. Models transform under his hands.

Put the two fashionistas together and voila, there's a visual collaboration called "Patrick Rosas Images" with photography by Jun de Leon.

This coffee-table book shows excellent printing with digital retouching done to a minimum, enough to enhance the background and details of the fantastic costumes.

The world-class subjects willingly shared their expressions, fantasies and persona on camera.

I never knew that Cesar Montano, for instance, has such a long tongue or Wig Tysmans would ever dare wear drag. Leica Carpo's makeup was amazing. So was Lucy Torres-Gomez's. The more you look at her, the more you'll love her. Anna Bayle with her son is also a first.

It's about time such quality book has been published.

I have a collection of coffee-table books by Richard Avedon, Annie Liebovitz, Helmut Newton, Nick Knight, Bruce Weber and David La Chapelle. De Leon's and Rosas' book is now prominently displayed beside them.

The Hands on Manila Foundation would like to express its gratitude to Rosas, De Leon and Grand C Graphics Inc. for their P100,000 donation.

Here's the crowd who attended the launching of the book at the RCBC Plaza.

INNO Sotto



VIVIENNE Tan



BEA Valdez

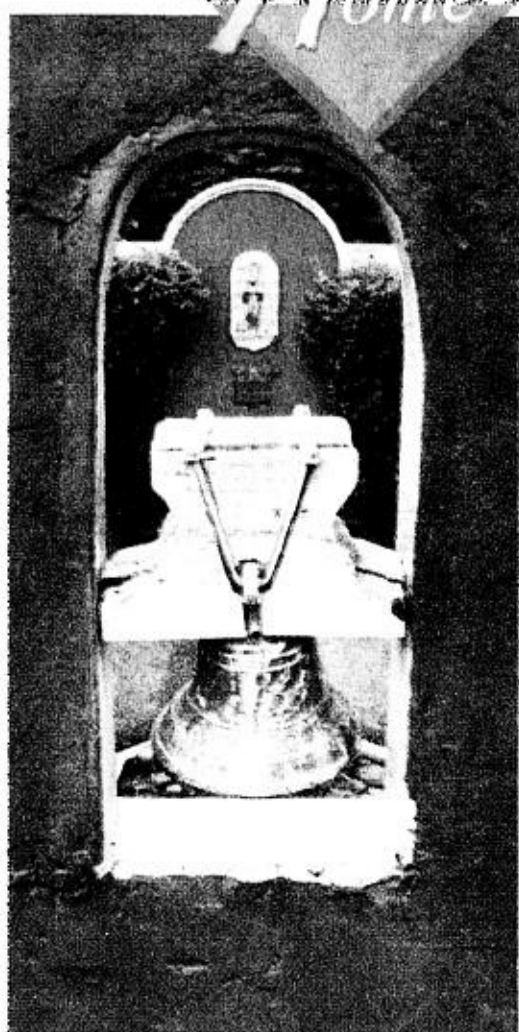


CHIN CHIN Gutierrez



FILAM-KOREAN model Alex Aquino

LIFESTYLE



AN ANTIQUE bell from her parents' huge collection of antiques

Traveler brings home Mexican garden as souvenir

BY ADRIAN LIZARES
PHOTOS BY CHITO VECINA
CONCEPTUALIZATION BY ALBERT AVELLANA

I AM always filled with excitement whenever I get a chance to travel to far-off places. If there is anything in the world one should work for, it is to be constantly on the move and to truly experience other places, whether that means getting there by car or in 20 hours through four airports.

I get high at the thought of check-ins and cannot wait for the doors to open when the airplanes' wheels touch the ground.

In all of our travels, we bring home mementos to remind us of what made those trips truly remarkable. They range from photographs of the most recognizable landmarks to miniatures of some of the places we experienced.

As I am not partial to those things, I am content to sit and absorb as much as I can. The mental notes will serve me well for the next decade or so, unless the situation gets dire enough to make you want to pack your bags and escape. Of course, occasionally you regret not having brought home any souvenir of an amazing trip. Imagine visiting the Angkor Wat and coming home with not a single photograph?

What one picks up along the way tells much about how a person viewed things, what he/she really is. What a traveler brings home is not limited to the carpets so passionately bargained for in Istanbul, the exotic seeds from the botanical gardens in Florida, the gardening books from specialty bookstores all over, or the odd iron chandelier with 28 glass spokes that one insisted on hand-carrying despite regulations. You decide what aspect of your travels you will take home with you and incorporate into your lives now!

Recapturing happy moments

After living for more than two years in Mexico City, our traveler has decided to make "the happiest moments" of her life permanent fixtures of her home. Moving back to the family farm just outside Manila, with its vast space and breathtaking scenery, the lady has decided to look inward.

With the memory of Mexico still fresh in her mind, she decided to make a garden echoing the "pueblo" style predominant in that part of the world. Plans drawn up included an indoor courtyard bound by colonnaded walls, and marked by a sonorous fountain that seemed to whisper words

TRAVELER/p.F2



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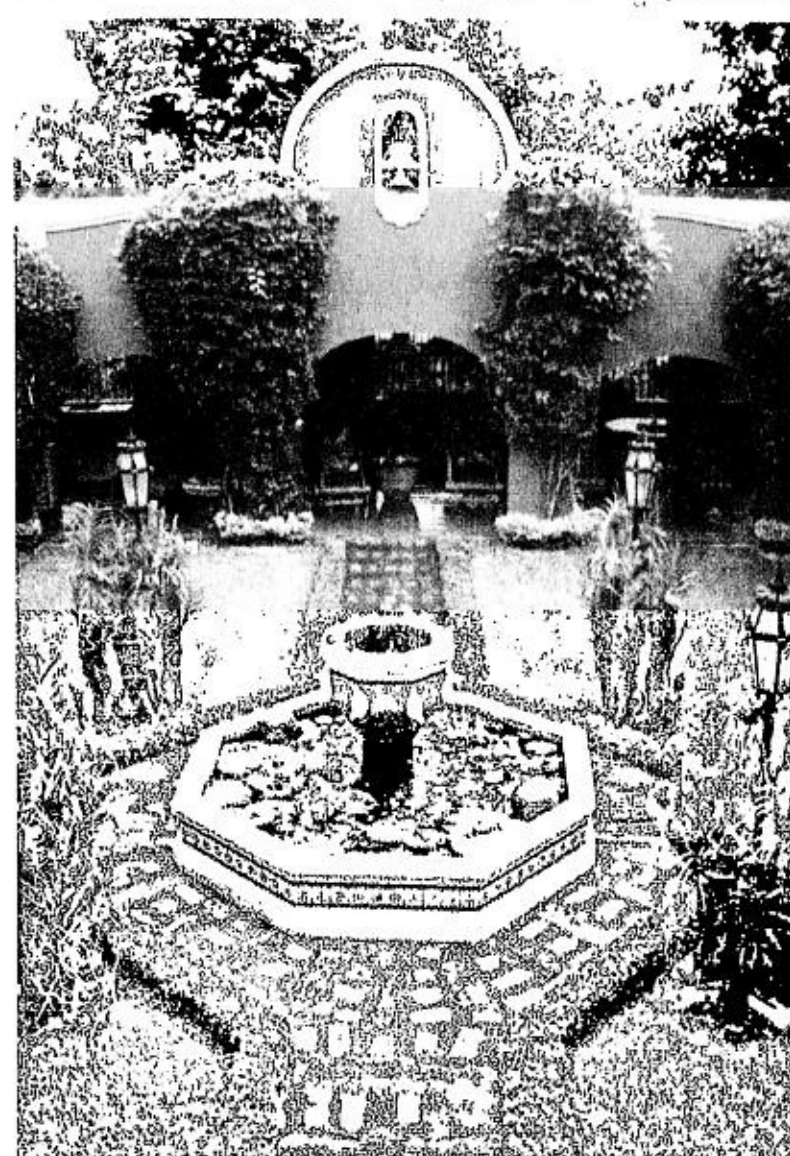
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THE WATER lily pond with bird-shaped spouts



THE VIEW of the South...

Traveler brings home Mexican garden as souvenir

(From page F1)

like "hole," "paz" and "amor" with every languid drop of water. I can't help hearing the mariachi burst into fanfare.

The Mexican motif, her Catholic upbringing and a deep love for nature made it quite natural to have the statue of Saint Francis of Assisi stand like a sentinel over the garden. The arches on the four sides of the simple garden are draped with two types of bougainvillea that set the place ablaze in the dry summer months.

It is interesting to note that the garden only has six different plants. Low hedges of the *Ixora* (*santan*) line the pathways.

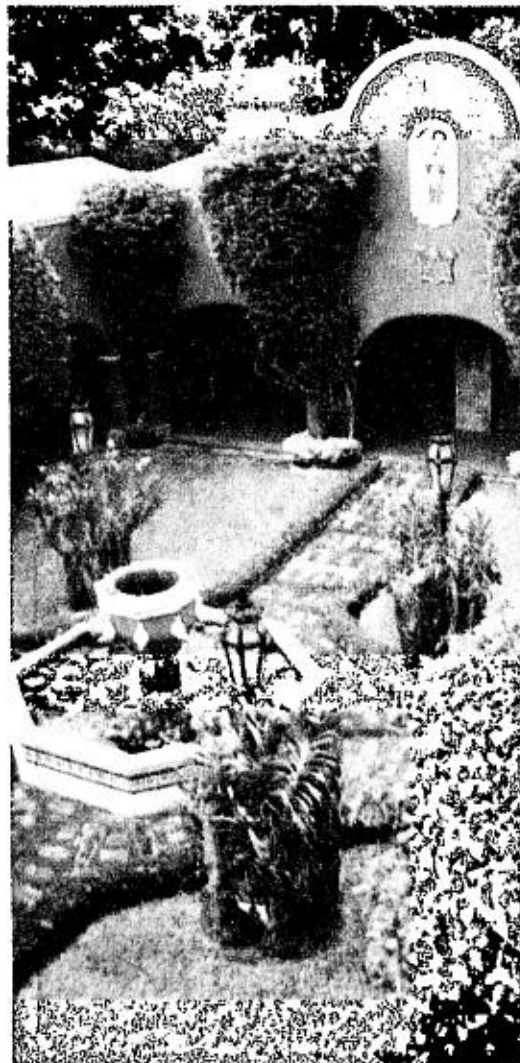
Under each bougainvillea shrub is the ubiquitous golden *duranta*, a craze when it was first introduced via garden shows in the '80s. Two types of *Vanda* orchids had just shed their summer blooms.

What caught my eye were the simple nymphs or water lilies that crowded the pond. So many varieties of water lilies are in the market now ranging from big white flowering types to miniature and rare lilac and blue varieties. You can choose lilies that bloom in the day, or those that open their flowers at night.

The garden is really rather simple, maybe even downright plain, but what it represents is special. The garden as souvenir may yet give ideas to people still undecided on the style for their garden.



PUEBLO-STYLE terra-cotta pigeons from Mexico



...AND North



THE VERANDAH is decked in Vigan tiles. Orient trees surround the property.

Gensan farmer grows super trees

By TITA V. GIRON

A FARMER in Mindanao is doing what Filipino agriculture scientists should have done a long time ago—developing super trees that produce quality fruits throughout the year whatever the climate is. Fruit trees, which many people in the Philippines dare not grow, have been the obsession of the unconventional farmer since the late 1950s.

Carlos Yusepeng, Mang Caloy to people in General Santos, has raised apples, lemons, mulberries, Bangkok chico, lychee, Israel pomegranate, Taiwan *balimbing*, loquat, Malabar chestnut, Jamaica roselle, date palm, passion fruit, pears, and many more in his farm.

But he is better-known for his unusual trees. Sweet *kamias*, seedless guava and *balimbing*, a cross between mango and *siniguelas*, seedless *macopa*, among others. And, oh yes, the odd farmer also has a herd of deer, four crocodiles, big *bayawak*, peacocks, pheasant and parrots.

Yusepeng was able to pursue his obsession only in 1988 when he retired from active business and settled in his own farm. He was frustrated, however, when agriculture experts he consulted were not able to provide the information he wanted.

"I was 60 years old and time was running short. It was frustrating to find out that fruit tree seedlings available in the market would take five to 10 years before they started bearing fruits of commercial value," Yusepeng said.

He swore to develop super fruit trees that would bear fruits within six months after planting and would produce fruits several times a year in dry or wet weather, hot or cold climate, and despite El Niño or La Niña. "I wanted the fruits to taste sweet. They had to be juicy and well-textured with a pleasant aroma and flavor," he said.

Learning by doing

Yusepeng embarked on his quest with no formal training in biotechnology, no gene-splicing equipment nor laboratory to work in, or greenhouse for his experimental plants. He bought quality trees here and abroad, and "fearlessly" planted them in his farm.

Lacking information materials on fruit trees, he had to order books from abroad. He read every available horticulture book, gobbled up information from tomes of Chinese books, and visited fruit tree farms in Taiwan, Bangkok, Israel, Malaysia. He also collected tree seedlings during his travels. His laboratory was his 2.5-ha farm.

In time, he had 20 different varieties and hundreds of trees growing in his farm. He used his hands to pollinate the flowers he could reach. Mostly, he let insects and wind cross-pollinate the flowers the natural way.

When the trees bore fruits, he selected the promising ones and monitored their progress. Over and over, he collected seeds, air-layered and grafted branches, crossed varieties and noted down their progress.

Trees for all seasons

After 13 years and many sleepless nights, his efforts produced results that surpassed his wildest expectations. He developed trees that he described as "no-nonsense nonstop fruit-bearing trees."

Among the super trees are: *makapuno* papaya with only a small cavity inside the fleshy and sweet fruit; longans that bear sweet fruits four times a year; giant *balimbing* that are sweet and juicy; *langka* (jackfruit) with crispy orange-colored flesh; seedless guava; and a cross between *siniguelas* and mango.

Unlike laboratory-bred hybrid papayas that do not produce germinating seeds, Yusepeng's improved variety has seeds that will grow into new trees.

His *langka* is vigorous and starts bearing fruits in two years unlike traditional varieties that take about five years to fruit. At 3 years old, Yusepeng's *langka* averages 80 fruits a year from the branches all the way down to the base of the trunk.

NPA fruit

Of all his trees, Yusepeng is proudest of the Jujube *manzanita* variety with giant apple-like fruits. After 10 years of continuous improvement of selected varieties, he produced new strains that are so far removed from the traditional *manzanitas* we are familiar with. Instead of small fruits with big seed, Yusepeng's *manzanita* varieties have fruits as big as crab apple with small seeds.

The new strains have genes from high-breed varieties from Taiwan, Thailand, China and Israel. He said, "They start producing fruits six months after planting and, after that, they bear fruits all year-round. The fruit tastes like a delicious combination of apples and pears, the skin tender, the pulp sweeter, juicier and crisper."

According to Yusepeng, the fruit contains vitamins and minerals, and has anti-oxidant and anti-aging properties. He calls the tree by different names

like *Yancifincho*, *Jujube*, *Manzana*, *Mansana Gensan*, and *N.P.A.*, which can stand for New Philippine Apple, New People's Apple, New Productive Apple, etc.

Defying convention

The unconventional farmer of Gensan defies convention if he can get away with it, even wearing slippers and a sleeveless undershirt at formal occasions. He is often tactless and does not pull his punches in his hard-hitting Sunday radio program called "Pukpukin Mo Baby."

But one forgets—and forgives—his "unsocial" ways when he generously shares information and tips about growing his unusual fruit trees, like he does in his other radio program "Mang Caloy Agrikultura." He is quite religious, as well, and quotes freely from the Bible in his writings.

"Christ said that branches of trees not bearing fruits will be cut off from the tree and thrown to the fire to be burned. Amen to this. We Filipinos will be saved from impending hunger if we will plant fruit-bearing trees."

For more information on the unusual trees, write to Mang Caloy Yusepeng, General Santos, Mindanao. He is sure to receive your letter even with that generic address because there is no one like him in Gensan.



FRUITING and flowering giant *balimbing*



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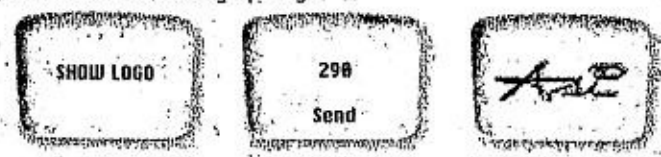
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BPI Credit Cards

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor

SPROJECTS@INQUIRER.COM.PH

AGGIE PINILI, Account Manager

Christmas madness kicks off this October

HAPPENING just before the Christmas season, the Christmas Kick-Off Madness takes place at the Glorietta, Ayala Center, Makati City from Oct. 12 to 30. As usual, the Madness presents a variety of smart gifts from top appliance, furniture, computer and electronic brands that would make your loved ones' holidays extra special.

Participating appliance brands are Aiiwa, Ariston, American Home, Concepcion-Carrier, Condura, Edia, Elba, Fedders Koppel, Fisher and Paykel, GE, JVC, Kelvinator, Kolin, La Germania, LG Collins, National/Panasonic, Philips, Pioneer, Ricoh Copier, Sharp, Sony, and Whirlpool.

Top quality pieces of furniture are courtesy of Ambiance One, Amity Sales, Blims and Home Plus.

Computers are brought in by Electroworld, TCA, Silicon Valley and Villman. The best deals in mobile phones come from Globe Handyphone, electronics from Casio, top-of-the-line cameras from Canon, the latest motorcycles from Mitsukoshi, and the latest movie blockbusters from Warner Home Video.

Participating dealers are Abenson, Automatic Centre, Ansons, Ambassador, Sogo, SM Appliance, Waltermart, and Western.

This shopping blitz is made even more rewarding with the use of the BPI credit cards. Cardholders get to use their cards' built-in Special Installment Plan (S.I.P.). The S.I.P. is used as an additional credit line separate from the regular credit limit, which is used for gasoline, grocery, drugstore and restaurant bills. The S.I.P. is perfect for the purchase of big-ticket items such as appliance, furniture, computers, and other home and office furnishings.

Through the S.I.P., the cardholder can avail of big discounts with low interest rates from a choice of terms from 3, 6, 9, 12, or up to 24 months with no down payment required.

So beat the rush and enjoy the shopping perks of BPI Card's latest appliance fair, "Christmas Kick-Off Madness."



Fisher & Paykel

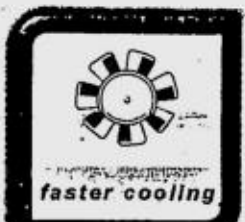
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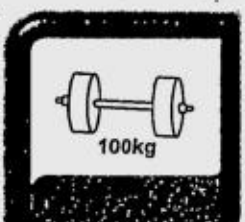
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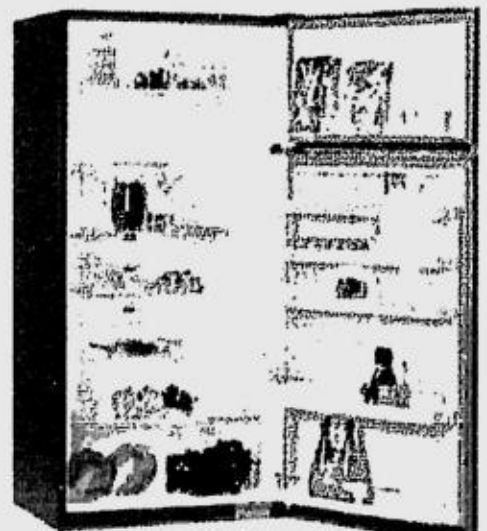
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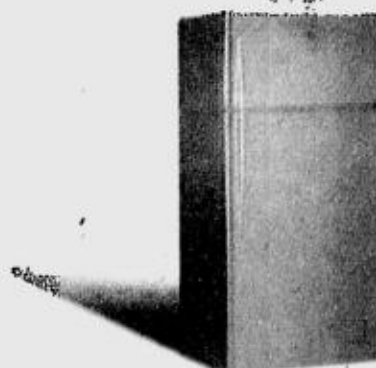
Advanced features include an audible door alarm that senses when the refrigerator or freezer door is not properly secured. Within 90 seconds you will hear a series of beeps which tell you the door is open.

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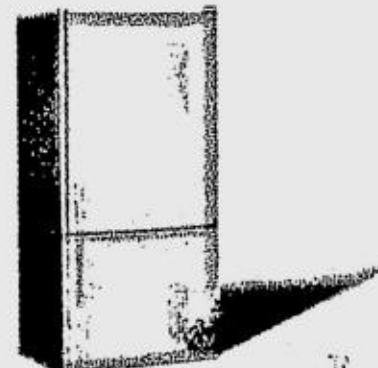
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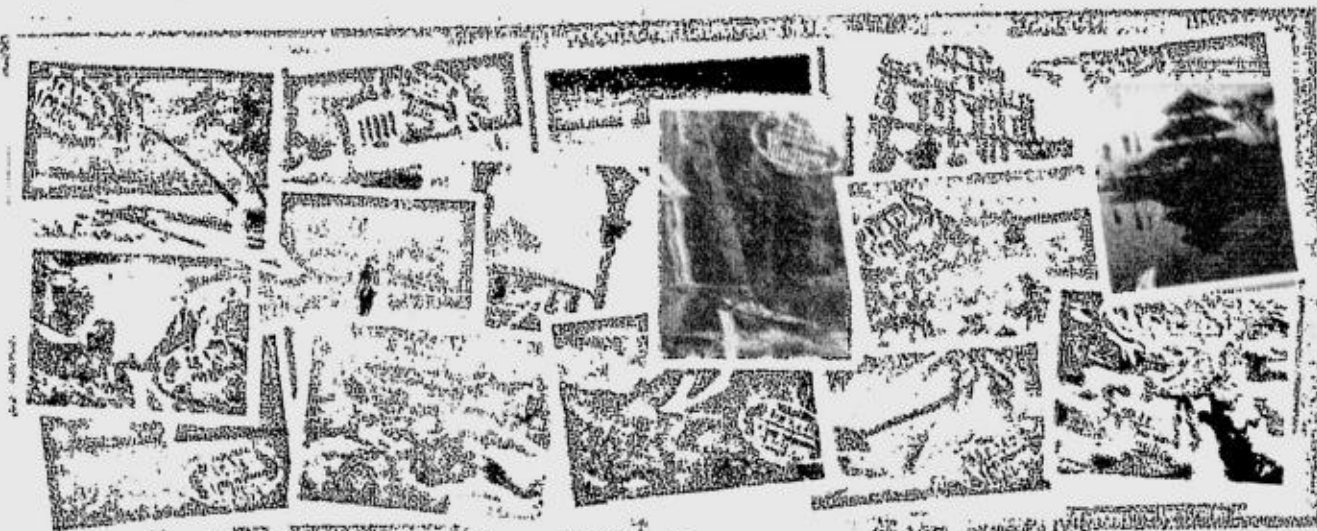
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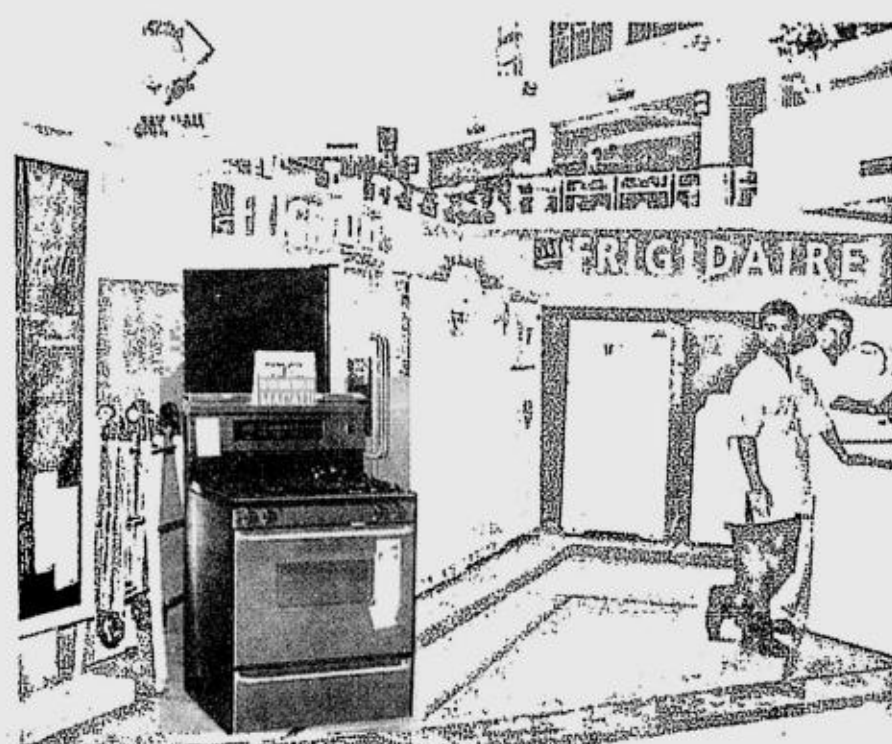
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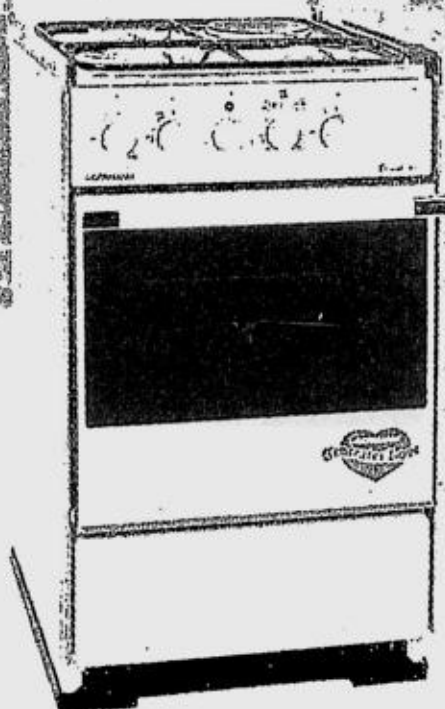
BPI Credit Cards' travel madness



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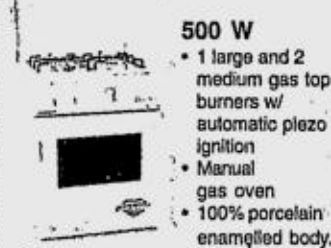
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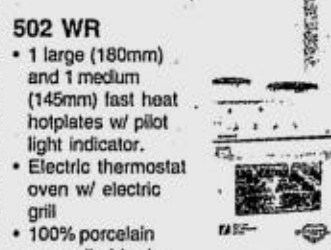
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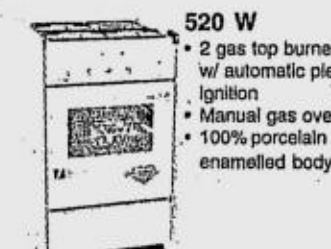
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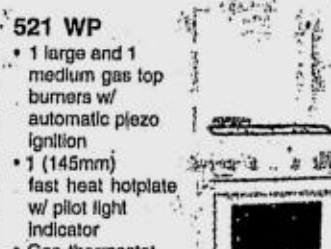
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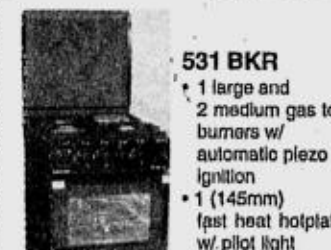
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I.T.'s Christmas time at Electroworld

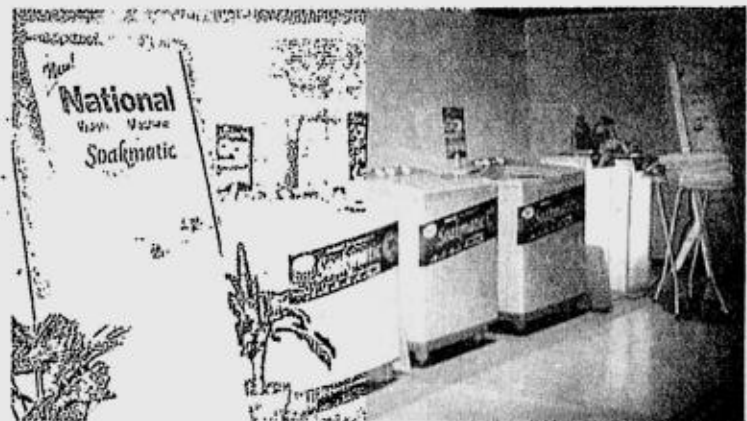
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Get into the latest digital photography technology with Canon Digital Camera Powershot A10 (1.1 megapixels, 3x digital zoom, USB interface) for only P6,995/month for 3 months. Take all the pictures, download them to your PC and print them. Instantly, you've got high quality photos. We broaden your choices for the Palmtops you've always wanted, that is why we are giving Palm handheld, HP Jornada pocket PC at no interest installment; 32MB and 64MB Compaq Ipaq handheld PCs available at Electroworld. As a Christmas treat, your Ipaq handhelds come with a free leather case. Fancy an MP3 player, powerful subwoofers, or videoconferencing camera for your PC this Christmas? Get these too on zero interest.

More of the IT gadgets you've been setting your eyes on all year are available at Electroworld. Get them on installment of up to 24 months at low interest rates using your BPI Credit Cards. So come on, hurry now to our booth (between Cinderella and Marks and Spencer) in BPI Madness Glorietta, Makati from Oct. 12 to Oct. 30.



NATIONAL Panasonic Sales Phils. (NPP), a division of Matsushita Electric Philippines Corp. (Mepco), manufacturer of high-quality home appliances (National) and audio video products (Panasonic), recently held its annual dealers convention at the Waterfront Hotel in Cebu City. Dubbed as 'A Continuing Commitment', the convention was also an opportunity to stress the fact that it can only realize its goals of reaching out to consumers with the active participation on its valued dealers. In its 34 years of operations in the country, Mepco has committed itself to products with the latest technologies to promote a better quality of life for Filipinos. Shown are the latest models of National, where the National Soakmatic was also launched. Soakmatic uses the most advanced technology to revolutionize the laundry industry and reorient the washing habits of Filipino consumers.

Great value at BPI Madness



FOR those who can't get enough of value-for-money events, you will be satisfied by BPI Card's 26th BPI Installment Madness dubbed Christmas Kick-Off Madness. It is taking place at the Glorietta, Ayala Center, Makati City from Oct. 12 to 30.

Once again, your BPI credit cards serve as your ticket to this event. High-quality products and easy terms take center stage at the Madness. Of course, the fact that this is happening right before the deluge of Christmas shoppers (thus letting you avoid the rush) is incentive enough.

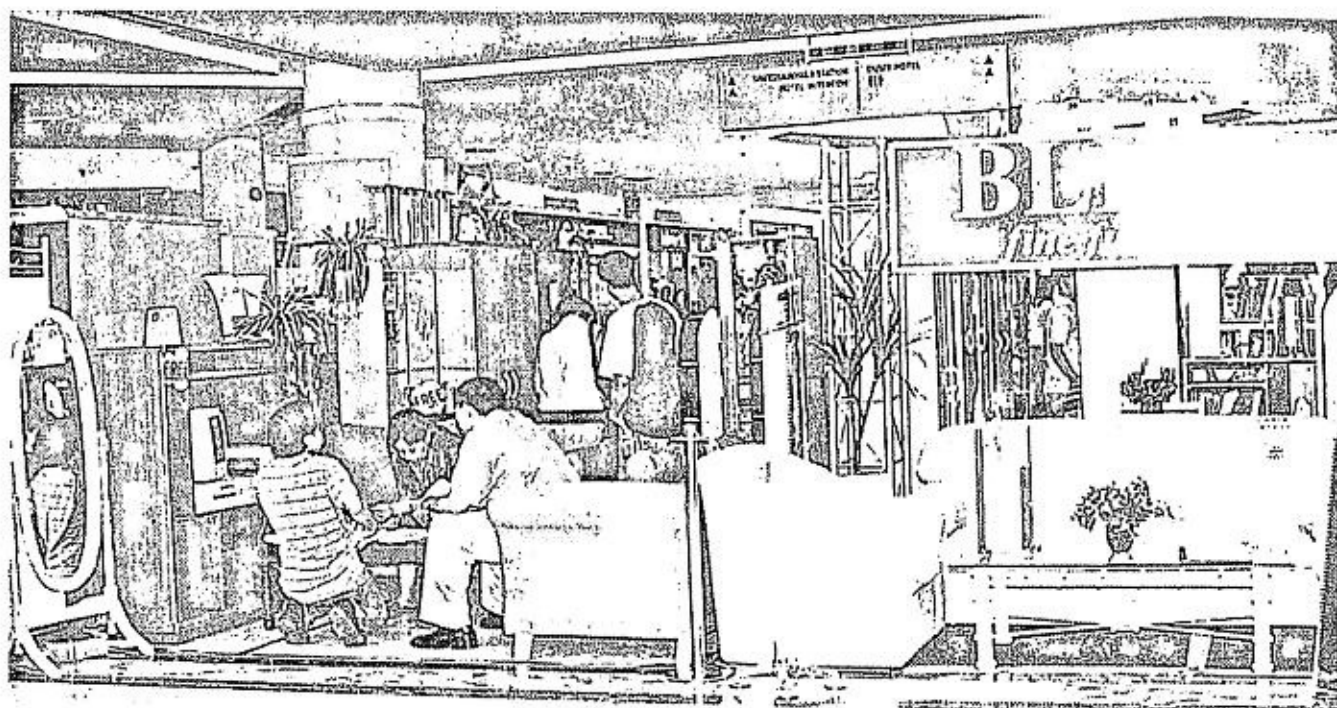
This shopper's paradise has the following appliance brands participating: Aiwa, Ariston, American Home,

Concepcion-Carrier, Condura, Edia, Elba, Fedders Koppel, Fisher & Paykel, GE, JVC, Kelvinator, Kolin, La Germania, LG Collins, National/Panasonic, Philips, Pioneer, Ricoh Copier, Sharp, Sony, and Whirlpool.

Furniture items are provided by Ambiance One, Amity Sales, Blims and Home Plus. Computers are brought in by Electroworld, TCA, Silicon Valley, and Villman. Also participating are Globe HandypHONE, Casio, Canon Cameras, and Mitsukoshi Motorcycles.

Participating dealers are Abenson, Automatic Centre, Ansons, Ambassador, Sogo, SM Appliance, Waltermart, and Western.

GREAT/G6



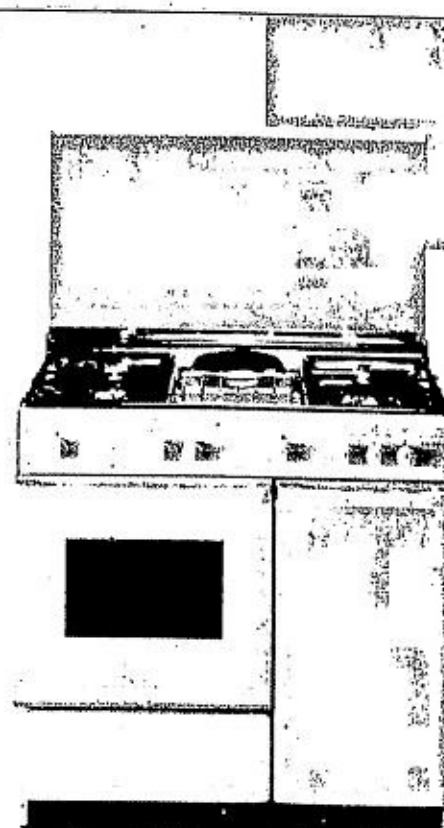
COOKING PLEASURES AND NONE OF THE PRESSURES

ELBA

Technology you can enjoy

User-friendly, it sizzles with features that makes cooking a real pleasure.

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- Thermostat
- Glass Lid, Oven Glass Door
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- Stainless Steel Cooktop
- 4 Gas + 1 Electric Plate
- Wokstand
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86 cm x 50 cm x 85 cm
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8920 FG2

Also Available
ELECTRIC OVEN
Model - 8920 FE2

100% ITALIAN RANGE
ISO 9001 CERTIFIED

AVAILABLE AT ALL
MAJOR APPLIANCE STORES

When it boils down to who is going to do the cooking, you'll be glad there is Elba. A kitchen appliance that takes the pressure out of cooking.

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Video freak by day.

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Audio Video Blast!

AUG. 16 - DEC. 31, 2001

Get 3 VCD Movies FREE

Get a CD CASE FREE

FOR EVERY VCD MINI COMPONENT (MODEL SC-AK122, SC-AK177, SC-DK10, SC-PM111 OR SC-PM141)

- Customer must present proof of purchase (sales invoice or official receipt) to dealer salesman or customer service personnel where the Panasonic product was purchased to claim item.
- Customer can claim item up to 60 days after end of promo period.
- Promo period is from August 16 to December 31, 2001 only.

SEE PROMO STANDEE FOR DETAILS

Per DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. 2638 SERIES OF 2001
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HOME

FURNITURE

0% Interest Rate
BPI Card

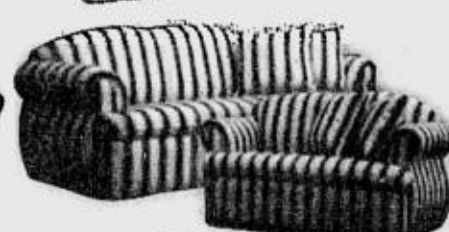
CHRISTMAS KICK-Off MADNESS!



COURTNEY LIVING ROOM SET 3-1-1

Cash Price P7895

Card Price **P657.92/mo.** for 12 mos.



BELLEVUE LIVING ROOM SET 3-2

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Card Price **P721.67/mo.** for 12 mos.



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88990T ROCKING CHAIR W/ OTTOMAN

Cash Price P3995



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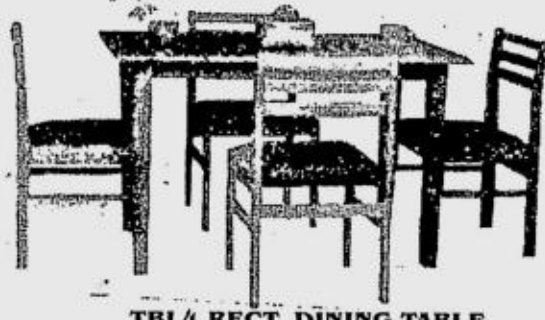
Cash Price P5100

Card Price **P425/mo.** for 12 mos.



SEP553 COFFEE TABLE W/ 2 CHAIRS

Cash Price P1750



TBL4 RECT. DINING TABLE W/ 4 CHAIRS

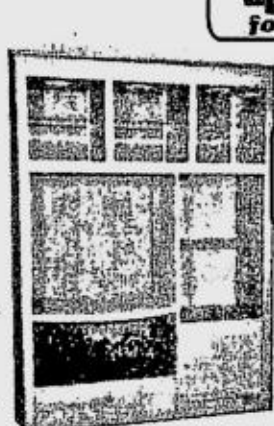
Cash Price P5500

Card Price **P458.33/mo.** for 12 mos.



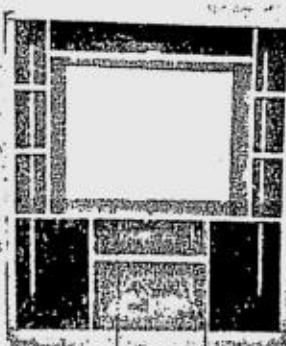
Card Price **P482.92/mo.** for 12 mos.

Cash Price P5795



Card Price **P491.25/mo.** for 12 mos.

Cash Price P5895



REC2955 ENTERTAINMENT RACK

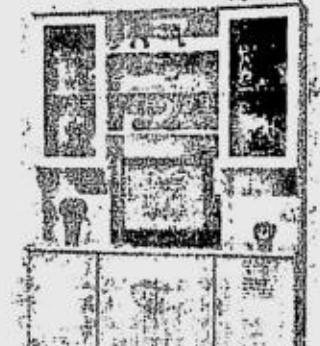
Cash Price P5540

Card Price **P461.67/mo.** for 12 mos.



BOOKCASE US3050

Cash Price P1300



WU850 ENTERTAINMENT RACK

Cash Price P6995

Card Price **P582.92/mo.** for 12 mos.



SH135C WARDROBE CABINET

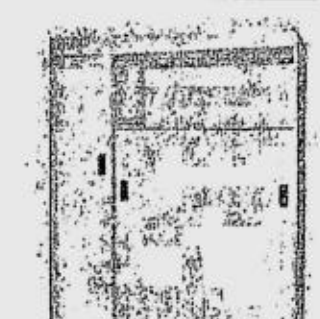
Cash Price P5250

Card Price **P437.50/mo.** for 12 mos.



BOOKCASE US3052

Cash Price P1995



W601 WARDROBE CABINET

Cash Price P4720

*Accessories are not included. Minimum purchase for credit card is P5000

E-mail: abshmk@the.net.ph Promo Period: October 19 - 30, 2001

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2001

The perks of the BPI credit cards

No other credit card gives you the perks offered by BPI Credit Card. Fact is, it is the only credit card that features two credit lines. That's right, two credit lines in one BPI credit card.

As a BPI credit cardholder, you can use your regular credit line whenever you dine, do the grocery, fill up on gasoline or buy at the drugstore. What sets the BPI credit card apart from the rest is the Special Installment Plan (S.I.P.). It is a unique feature exclusive to all BPI credit cards. It is used as an additional credit line without affecting the card's regular credit limit.

The S.I.P. is best used for purchasing big-ticket items such as audio-video and home appliances, computers, electronics and furnishings. The S.I.P. allows you to enjoy big discounts with low interest rates from three, six, nine, 12 or up to 24-month terms, with no downpayment required.

BPI card is providing the perfect opportunity with its latest event, the 26th BPI Installment Madness.

Go mad at the insanely high-quality items up for sale at the Installment Madness. If you're looking for home appliances, there are Aiwa, Ariston, American Home, Concepcion-Carrier, Condura, Edia, Elba, Fedders, Koppel, Fisher & Paykel, GE, JVC, Kelvinator, Kolin, La Germania, LG Collins, National Panasonic, Philips, Pioneer, Ricoh Copier, Sharp, Sony and Whirlpool.

from Oct. 12 to 30 at the Glorietta, Ayala Center, Makati City. Go mad at the insanely high-quality items up for sale at the Installment Madness. If you're looking for home appliances, there are Aiwa, Ariston, American Home, Concepcion-Carrier, Condura, Edia, Elba, Fedders, Koppel, Fisher & Paykel, GE, JVC, Kelvinator, Kolin, La Germania, LG Collins, National Panasonic, Philips, Pioneer, Ricoh Copier, Sharp, Sony and Whirlpool.

Top quality pieces of furniture are courtesy of Ambiance One, Amity Sales, Blims and Home Plus.

Computers are brought in by Electroworld, TCA, Silicon Valley and Villman.

There are also other offerings as well: Globe Handyphone, Canon, Casio, Mitsubishi motorcycles and latest movie blockbusters from Warner Home Video.

Participating dealers are Abenson, Automatic Center, Ansons, Ambassador, Sogo, SM Appliance, Waltermart and Western.

Aside from the perks that the S.I.P. feature provides, you can also accumulate "Frequent User points". Simply charge your purchase to your BPI credit card and claim a gift for as low as 250 points. Every P200 purchase merits one point. There is a wide selection of prizes to choose from the "Frequent User" catalogue. Points accumulated up to January 2002 of the statement cut-off date.

THE Canon IXUS Advantage

CANON IXUS cameras are undoubtedly unique. They just don't look different than your ordinary cameras, they are different.

Ultra compact, in radical design, IXUS is a product of brilliant research and workmanship. Best of all, these new CANON cameras take full advantage of the opportunities offered by the Advanced Photo System.

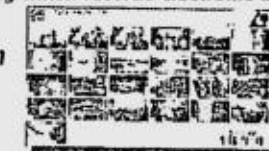


Advanced Photo System offers a new future for photography

What's Advanced Photo System? APS combines the tried & tested technologies of silver halide photography. The easy-load, drop-in cartridge contains photographic film for ultra high resolution images and the film has a magnetic coating which records electronic data.

Only APS cameras give you 3 PRINT SIZES all in one roll of film

- CLASSIC (C)**
Format C is suitable for general photography.
- HIGH VISION (H)**
Format H is ideal for group shots, and wide angle views.
- PANORAMIC (P)**
Format P gives a panoramic view which is ideal for landscapes and large groups.



Receive an index print with each processed film. Ideal when reordering reprints and enlargements.

Find out more about CANON IXUS ADVANTAGE. Visit the Canon Booth at the BPI CHRISTMAS KICK-OFF MADNESS or call Super East Asia Ents., Inc. 524-4604 / 524-4606

Canon IXUS X-rated! BIG DISCOUNTS PLUS FREE "GO PANORAMIC" package

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Smaller than your credit card lighter than a slice of apple.
Reg. price P9,675
Now only **P8,975**
- IXUS L1**
Equipped with Canon's famous aspherical lens element for guaranteed clear, sharp shots all the time. Remote control capable.
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Ready to rough and roll! Capture the fun and excitement of your rugged escapades. Windproof, dirt-proof, sand proof. Ready for the great outdoors.
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- CLASSIC (C)**
Format C is suitable for general photography.
- HIGH VISION (H)**
Format H is ideal for group shots, and wide angle views.
- PANORAMIC (P)**
Format P gives a panoramic view which is ideal for landscapes and large groups.

September 15-December 15, 2001

*Optional remote control (RC-5)

Per DTI NCR Permit No. 2856 Series of 2001

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Always demand for the CANON WARRANTY CARD issued by SUPER EAST ASIA ENTERPRISES, INC.

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Henry's Camera-Quilgo Tel. 7337221 • Mayer Photo-Quilgo Tel. 7337722 • SM Appliance-Rockwell Makati City Tel. 8901616, North EDSA Tel. 9279356
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Home Plus' 0-interest kicks off

WHEN the clock ticks down to the last minutes of Christmas shopping, you can bet your dollar it's going to be one chaotic scene. But who needs the rush? Perking up your home can be a walk in the park with Home Plus, the place to go for living room sets, dining room sets, dining and kitchen, bedroom, office furniture and accessories.

That is why as early as October, Home Plus will get you into the frenzy through BPI Christmas Kick-Off Madness, where lifestyle furniture pieces are available at 0-percent interest rate, 12-month payment scheme on selected models (using your BPI Cards Special Installment Plans). You can also enjoy low interest rates on all items.

In addition, you can get a chance to win a brand new GLX 2002 Mitsubishi Adventure or any of the 30 major appliances in the Grand Adventure Raffle promo. Every P1,000 worth of purchase entitles you to a raffle coupon. Plus, the same purchase will automatically add up to your Rewards Plus points. BPI Christmas Kick-Off Madness happens from Oct. 12 to 30 at the Glorietta, Ayala Center in Makati. Or you can visit any of Home Plus' branches in Metro Manila and the nearby provinces. For inquiries, e-mail abshmk@the.net.ph or call 812-9425/816-3991.

'The small giant'

OYAKUDACHI--spirit in mind or putting yourself in the customers shoes to create value. Ricoh's value to customers constantly comes up with newer, higher quality products and services. And, in business, space and time are a premium. Hence, with this in mind you will require very compact and highly reliable machines.

Ricoh introduces "the small giant" Ricoh FT 3813--compact, reliable, and produces a first copy after 6.9 seconds. Its operation panel offers ease of use for everyone, with a wide selection of copy modes that ensures high quality for original copies. With its compact size the FT3813 is the first copier that has the ability to copy an A3 size original directly onto A3 size paper, with no hassles of reducing the original image. This copier offers all these benefits in an environment-friendly design. It enables toner recycling and reduces power consumption with its energy saver mode. Ricoh FT3813 may be modest-looking, but for business it is giant steps ahead.

And as a "smart and productive office partner", Ricoh has its Digital MultiFunction Products (MFP) called Aficio. This word comes from the Latin root *afficio*, which reflects Ricoh's creative concept of "commitment to customer satisfaction". Aficio embraces the true meaning "manage", "handle", "move" and "influence". Ricoh's two models, Aficio 1015 and Aficio 1018, therefore, becomes the ideal all-in-one partner for your business. No need to spend on three separate machines, take advantage of a combined copier, printer and fax into one compact system. Aficio can now do virtually all your office work--from copying, sending faxes, to controlling printouts from your desktop without any problems.

Why wait? Ricoh lets you choose between the FT 3813, Aficio 1015 and Aficio 1018 to suit best your requirements. Any of these models offer a cost-effective and compact document management system in your workplace that lets you set the ball rolling. Look no further for a quality solution, Ricoh makes it happen through the BPI credit card, while some models may even be available at zero-interest plans. Or call us now for more details at Ricoh Philippines Inc. at 893-5372 and 817-6718.



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Microsoft Windows ME

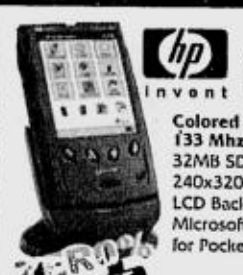
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for Pocket PC

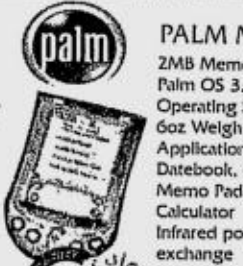
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Internet Capable
8MB Memory
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Operating System
Applications:
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PALM M100

2MB Memory
Palm OS 3.5
Operating System
6oz Weight
Applications: Addressbook,
Datebook, Clock, To-Do List,
Memo Pad, Notepad,
Calculator
Infrared port for data
exchange

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GET A CHANCE TO WIN AN ADVENTURE

for every P1000 purchase

Promo Duration: September 8 to December 31, 2001

As PER DTI NCR Permit No. 2798 Series of 2001

As PER DTI NCR Permit No. 2798 Series of 2001

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Ultimate picture for your AV entertainment.

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KV-XA34M80

FD Trinitron

WEGA

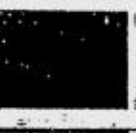
SWITCH TO A FLAT. SWITCH ON A WEGA.



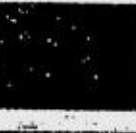
KV-XA21N93



KV-XA26N90



KV-XA28N90



KV-XA34M80

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Great value at BPI . . . (From page G3)

BPI credit cardholders can expect their hard-earned money's worth at the Madness and stretch their peso, thanks to the Special Installment Plan (S.I.P.), a unique built-in feature exclusive to all BPI credit cards.

The S.I.P. is an additional credit line that does not deplete the card's regular credit limit. It is a unique feature to all BPI credit cards and is best used for buying big ticket items such as the ones on sale at the "Christmas Kick-Off Madness."

Through the S.I.P. cardholders can look forward to

big discounts with low interest rates from a choice of terms from 3, 6, 9, 12, or up to 24 months and with no downpayment required.

There's more in store: the "Frequent User Privileges." Cardholders can charge their purchases to their BPI credit card and earn points to claim a gift for as low as 250 points. They have a choice from a wide selection of fabulous prizes. Every P200 purchase is equal to one point. Points accumulated is until January 2002 of the statement cut-off date.



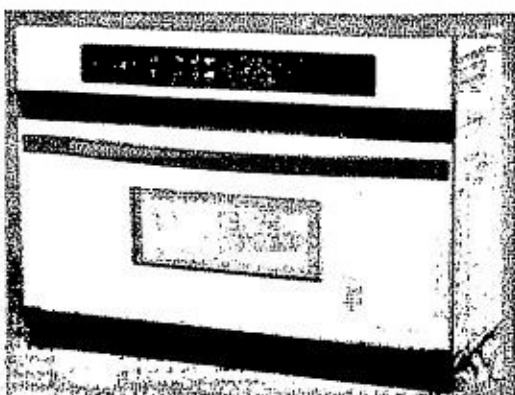
Revolutionary Speedcook technology introduced in the Philippines

IMAGINE the convenience of preparing great-tasting food in less time than it takes to go out and buy "carry-out." How about a perfectly broiled strip steak, grill seared and delicious in just seven minutes; or a whole roasted chicken, golden outside, moist and tender inside in just 25 minutes; or a plump fried chicken, crisp and ready to eat, only five minutes after you've taken it from the freezer.

Now, you don't have to imagine. As part of the vision to help consumers live better, easier lives, GE Appliances introduces the revolutionary Advantium oven with Speedcook technology. On the average, Advantium cooks oven-quality meals one-fourth of the time of conventional ovens. It bakes, broils, grills, and roasts—all with no pre-heating.

In most households today, dinner is not decided on until after 4 p.m. But after years of research, GE has developed a breakthrough technology for the way households live. The innovative Advantium uses powerful halogen lights to cook oven-quality food up to eight times faster than a conventional oven. By harnessing the power of light, this breakthrough invention cooks the outside of food much like a conventional radiant heat, but also penetrates the surface so the inside is cooked at the same time. As a result, food cooks evenly and so fast that the natural moisture is retained.

Unlike traditional ovens, the Advantium oven delivers



THE new GE Advantium Oven stainless steel model.

scrumptious, oven-quality food in minutes at the touch of a button. Designed for speed and simplicity of use, the Advantium oven comes pre-programmed with over a hundred popular recipes. It has a multi-function selector dial that combines a turn-and-tap function for selecting food and programming. The easy to read electronic display takes you through the cooking options, and you can even customize and save your favorite recipe. The interior of the GE Advantium Oven is designed for easy cleaning because it is made of non-porous stainless steel.

GE created the speedcook category and introduced the first generation Advantium oven in 1999. The first Advantium ovens were configured to fit over a cooktop, range or counter. The second generation Advantium wall oven was introduced in 2000. These ovens remain the fastest in the industry. Now, households can spend more time enjoying meals with their family and less time in the kitchen.

The innovative GE Advantium Oven has received the 2001 American Building Products Award from Home Magazine. Since its introduction in October 1999 the oven has won numerous awards for its advanced technology and its ability to give people the opportunity to cook oven quality food in a time and manner suitable to their hectic lifestyles.

THANKSGIVING TREAT FROM CASIO

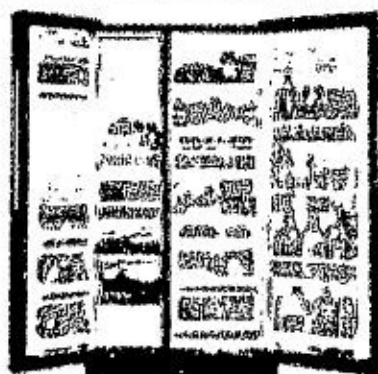
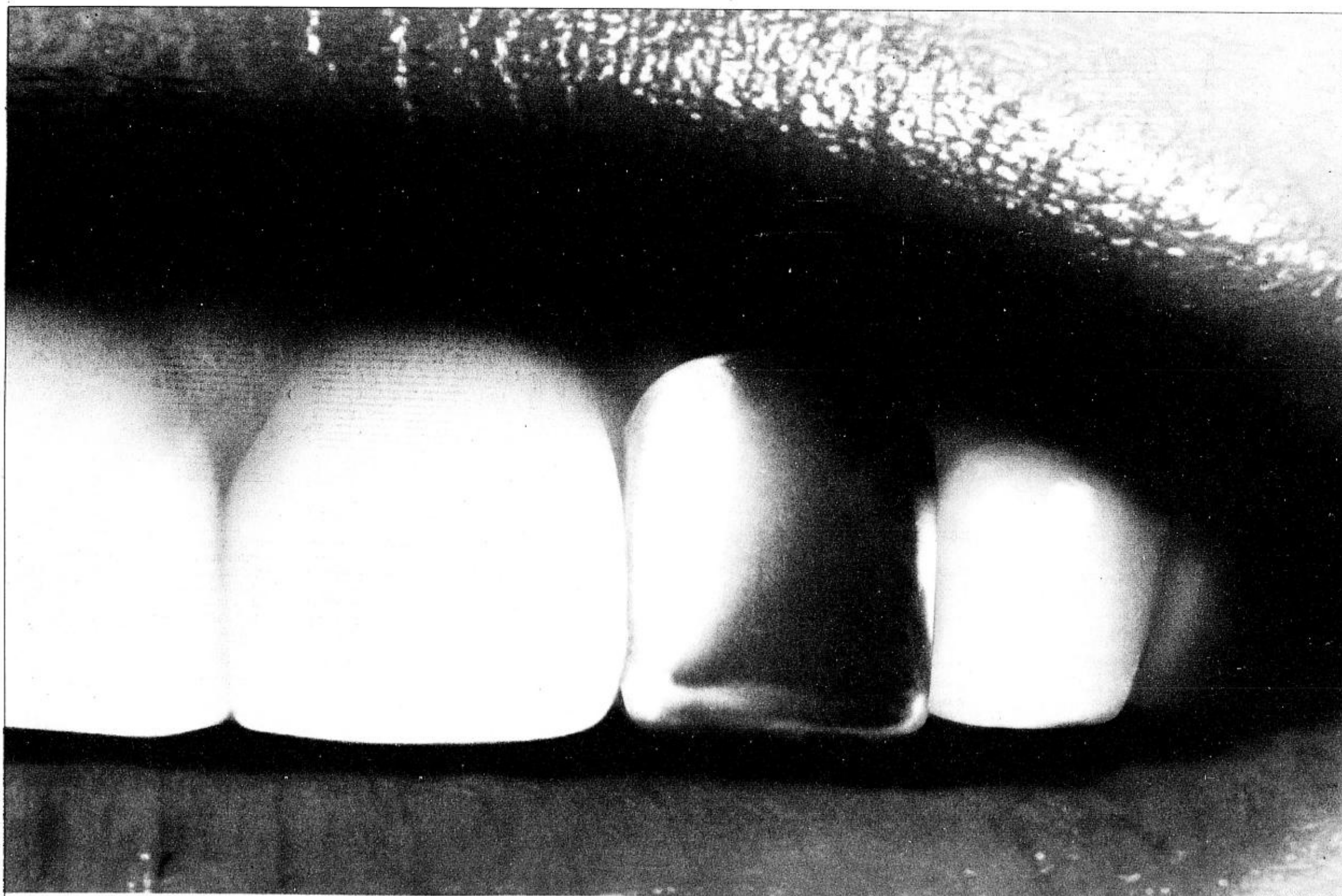
Through the years, CASIO Electronic Musical Instruments has been staging its annual "Pasasalamat Sale" wherein huge discounts are given to CASIO buyers nationwide.

Just as CASIO keyboards are designed for the whole family, this year's "Pasasalamat Sale" highlights instant family giveaways like free FAMILY PORTRAIT from Photoline, VCD home video from C-Interactive, FAMILY TUNE CD or Tape courtesy of Warner Music, MOVIE TREAT at SM Cinema, FAMILY BUFFET "Eat all you Can" at Cabalen Restaurant or an ENCHANTED WEEKEND from Enchanted Kingdom.

CASIO Pasasalamat Sale 2001 family surprises and treats are available from Casio participating outlets nationwide starting October 1-31, 2001. For inquiries, call CASIO at 8066521.



CASIO EMI
Pasasalamat Sale



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